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Patentanmeldung Nr.   **Patent application No.**   **Demande de brevet n°**

02077953.4

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts:
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets
p.o.

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Anmeldung Nr:
Application no.:   02077953.4
Demande no:

Anmeldetag:
Date of filing: 18.07.02
Date de dépôt:

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Bezeichnung der Erfindung/Title of the invention/Titre de l'invention:
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Recombinant production of mixtures of antibodies

In Anspruch genommene Prioriät(en) / Priority(ies) claimed /Priorité(s)
revendiquée(s)
Staat/Tag/Aktenzeichen/State/Date/File no./Pays/Date/Numéro de dépôt:

Internationale Patentklassifikation/International Patent Classification/
Classification internationale des brevets:

C12N15/00

Am Anmeldetag benannte Vertragstaaten/Contracting states designated at date of
filing/Etats contractants désignées lors du dépôt:

   AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SK TR

Title: Recombinant production of mixtures of antibodies

(55)

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to the field of medicine, more
in particular to the field of production of antibodies, more
in particular to the production of mixtures of antibodies.

5

Background of the invention

The essential function of the immune system is the defence
against infection. The humoral immune system combats
molecules recognized as non-self, such as pathogens, using

10   immunoglobulines. These immunoglobulines, also called
antibodies, are raised specifically against the infectious
agent, which acts as an antigen, upon first contact (Roitt,
Essential Immunology, Blackwell Scientific Publications,
fifth edition, 1984; all references cited herein are

15   incorporated in their entirety by reference). Antibodies are
multivalent molecules comprising heavy (H) chains and light
(L) chains joined with interchain disulfide bonds. Several
isotypes of antibodies are known, including IgG1, IgG2, IgG3,
IgG4, IgA, IgD, IgE, and IgM. An IgG contains two heavy and

20   two light chains. Each chain contains constant (C) and
variable (V) regions, which can be broken down into domains
designated C_{H1}, C_{H2}, C_{H3}, V_H, and C_L, V_L (Fig. 1). Antibody
binds to antigen via the variable region domains contained in
the Fab portion, and after binding can interact with

25   molecules and cells of the immune system through the constant
domains, mostly through the Fc portion.
B-lymphocytes can produce antibodies in response to exposure
to biological substances like bacteria, viruses and their
toxic products. Antibodies are generally epitope specific and

30   bind strongly to biological substances carrying these

epitopes. The hybridoma technique (Kohler and Milstein 1975) makes use of the ability of B-cells to produce monoclonal antibodies to specific antigens and to subsequently produce these monoclonal antibodies by fusing B-cells from mice

5   exposed to the antigen of interest to immortalized murine plasma cells. This technology resulted in the realization that monoclonal antibodies produced by hybridoma's could be used in research, diagnostics and therapies to treat different kinds of diseases like cancer and auto-immune

10   related disorders.

Because antibodies that are produced in mouse hybridoma's induce strong immune responses in humans, it has been appreciated in the art that antibodies required for successful treatment of humans needed to be less or

15   preferably non-immunogenic. For this, murine antibodies were first engineered by replacing the murine constant regions with human constant regions (referred to as chimeric antibodies). Subsequently, domains between the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) in the variable

20   domains, the so-called framework regions, were replaced by their human counterparts (referred to as humanized antibodies). The final stage in this humanization process has been the production of fully human antibodies.

In the art, also bispecific antibodies, which have

25   binding specificities for two different antigens, have been described. These are generally used to target a therapeutic or diagnostic moiety, e.g. T-cell, a cytotoxic trigger molecule or a chelator that binds a radionuclide, that is recognized by one variable region of the antibody to a cell

30   that is recognized by the other variable region of the antibody, e.g. a tumor cell (see for bispecific antibodies Le Doussal et al, 1992; Kroesen et al, 1993, 1994; Weiner, 2000,

Fanger et al, 1991; Segal et al, 1999, 2001; Weiner and De Gast, 1995).

One very useful method known in the art to obtain fully human monoclonal antibodies with desirable binding properties

5 employs phage display libraries. This is an *in vitro*, recombinant DNA-based, approach that mimics key features of the humoral immune response (see for phage display methods e.g. McCafferty et al, 1990; Marks et al, 1991, 1993; Hoogenboom and Winter, 1992; Chester et al, 1994; Burton and

10 Barbas 1994; Winter et al, 1994; De Kruif et al, 1995a, 1995b; Harrison et al, 1996; WO 90/02809; WO 92/01047; WO 93/19172; WO 93/11236; WO 93/06213; US patent 6,265,150). For the construction of phage display libraries, collections of human monoclonal antibody heavy and light chain variable

15 region genes are expressed on the surface of bacteriophage particles, usually in single chain Fv (scFv) or in Fab format. Large libraries of antibody fragment-expressing phages typically contain more than 10^9 antibody specificities and may be assembled from the immunoglobulin V regions

20 expressed in the B lymphocytes of immunized- or non-immunized individuals. Alternatively, phage display libraries may be constructed from immunoglobulin variable regions that have been partially assembled or rearranged *in vitro* to introduce additional antibody diversity in the library (semi-synthetic

25 libraries) (Hoogenboom and Winter, 1992; De Kruif et al, 1995b). For example, *in vitro* assembled variable regions contain stretches of synthetically produced, randomized or partially randomized DNA in those regions of the molecules that are important for antibody specificity. The genetic

30 information encoding the antibodies identified by phage display, can be used for cloning the antibodies in a desired

format, e.g. IgG, IgA or IgM, to produce the antibody with recombinant DNA methods (Boel et al, 2000).

An alternative method to provide fully human antibodies uses transgenic mice that comprise genetic material encoding a

5   human immunoglobulin repertoire (Fishwild et al, 1996; Mendez et al, 1997). Such mice can be immunized with a target antigen, and the resulting immune response will produce fully human antibodies. The sequences of these antibodies can be used in recombinant production methods.

10   Production of monoclonal antibodies routinely is performed by use of recombinant expression of the nucleic acid sequences encoding the H and L chains of antibodies in host cells (see e.g. EP0120694; EP0314161; EP0481790; US patent 4,816,567; WO 00/63403).

15   To date, many different diseases are being treated with either humanized or fully human monoclonal antibodies. Products based on monoclonal antibodies that are currently approved for use in humans include Herceptin™ (anti-Her2/Neu), Reopro™ (anti-Glycoprotein IIB/IIIA receptor),

20   Mylotarg™ (anti-CD33), Rituxan™ (Rituximab, anti-CD20), Simulect™ (anti-CD25), Remicade™ (anti-TNF), Synagis™ (anti-RSV), Zenapax™ (IL2-receptor), CAMPATH™ (anti-CD52). Despite these successes, there is still room for new antibody products and for considerable improvement of existing

25   antibody products. The use of monoclonal antibodies in cancer treatment has shown that so-called "antigen-loss tumor variants" can arise, making the treatment with the monoclonal antibody less effective. Treatment with the very successful monoclonal antibody Rituximab (anti-CD20) has for instance

30   shown that antigen-loss escape variants can occur, leading to relapse of the lymphoma (Kinoshita et al, 1998; Schmitz et al, 1999; Massengale et al, 2002). In the art, the potency of

monoclonal antibodies has been increased by fusing them to toxic compounds, such as radionuclides, toxins, cytokines, and the like. Each of these approaches however has its limitations, including technological and production problems

5   and/or high toxicity.

     Furthermore, it appears that the gain in specificity of monoclonal antibodies compared to traditional undefined polyclonal antibodies, goes at the cost of loss of efficacy. In vivo, antibody responses are polyclonal in nature, i.e. a

10   mixture of antibodies is produced because various B-cells respond to the antigen, resulting in various specificities being present in the polyclonal antibody mixture. Polyclonal antibodies can also be used for therapeutic applications, e.g. for passive vaccination or for active immunotherapy, and

15   currently are usually derived from pooled serum from immunized animals or from humans who recovered from the disease. The pooled serum is purified into the proteinaceous or gamma globulin fraction, so named because it contains predominantly IgG molecules. Polyclonal antibodies that are

20   currently used for treatment include anti-rhesus polyclonal antibodies, gamma-globulin for passive immunization, anti-snake venom polyclonal (CroFab), Thymoglobulin™ for allograft rejection, anti-digoxin to neutralize the heart drug digoxin, and anti-rabies polyclonal. In currently

25   marketed therapeutic antibodies, an example of the higher efficacy of polyclonal antibodies compared to monoclonal antibodies can be found in the treatment of acute transplant rejection with anti-T-cell antibodies. The monoclonal antibodies on the market (anti-CD25 basiliximab) are less

30   efficacious than a rabbit polyclonal antibody against thymocytes (Thymoglobulin™) (press releases dated March 12 and April 29, 2002, on www.sangstat.com). The use of pooled

human sera however potentially bears the risk of infections
with viruses such as HIV or hepatitis, with toxins such as
lipopolysaccharide, with proteinaceous infectious agents such
as prions, and with unknown infectious agents. Furthermore,
5   the supply that is available is limited, and insufficient for
widespread human treatments. Problems associated with the
current application of polyclonal antibodies derived from
animal sera in the clinic include a strong immune response of
the human immune system against such foreign antibodies.
10   Therefore such polyclonals are not suitable for repeated
treatment, or for treatment of individuals that were injected
previously with other serum preparations from the same animal
species.

The art describes the idea of the generation of animals
15   with a human immunoglobulin repertoire, which can
subsequently be used for immunization with an antigen to
obtain polyclonal antibodies against this antigen from the
transgenic animals (e.g. see WO 00/46251; WO 01/19394; Ishida
et al, 2002). However, much technological hurdles still will
20   have to be overcome before such a system is a practical
reality in larger animals than mice, and it will take years
of development before such systems can provide the polyclonal
antibodies in a safe and consistent manner in sufficient
quantities. Moreover, antibodies produced from pooled sera,
25   whether being from human or animal origin, will always
comprise a high amount of unrelated and undesired
specificities, as only a small percentage of the antibodies
present in a given serum will be directed against the antigen
used for immunization. It is for instance known that in
30   normal, i.e. non-transgenic, animals about 1-10% of the
circulating immunoglobulin fraction is directed against the

antigen used for hyper-immunization, hence the vast majority
of circulating immunoglobulins is not specific.

One approach towards expression of polyclonal antibody
libraries has been described (Den et al, 1999; Santora et al,
2000; Baecher-Allan et al, 1999; WO 95/20401; US patents
5,789,208 and 6,335,163). A polyconal library of Fab antibody
fragments is expressed using a phage display vector, and
selected for reactivity towards an antigen. The selected
heavy and light chain variable region gene combinations are
transferred in mass, as linked pairs, to a eukaryotic
expression vector that provides constant region genes, to
obtain a sublibrary of intact polyconal antibodies. Upon
transfection of this sublibrary into myeloma cells, stable
clones produce monoclonal antibodies that can be mixed to
obtain a polyclonal antibody mixture. While in theory it
would be possible to obtain polyclonal antibodies directly
from a single recombinant production process using this
method by culturing a mixed population of transfected cells,
potential problems would occur concerning the stability of
the mixed cell population, and hence the consistency of the
produced polyclonal antibody mixture. The control of a whole
population of different cells in a pharmaceutically
acceptable large (i.e. industrial) scale process, is a
daunting task. It would seem, that characteristics such as
growth rates of the cells and production rates of the
antibodies should remain stable for all the individual clones
of the non-clonal population in order to keep the ratio of
antibodies in the polyclonal antibody mixture more or less
constant. Thus, while the need for mixtures of antibodies may
have been recognized in the art, no acceptable solutions
exist to make mixtures of antibodies economically in a
pharmaceutically acceptable way. It is the object of the

present invention to provide novel means for producing a
mixture of antibodies in recombinant hosts.

5

Brief description of the figures

Fig. 1   Schematic representation of an antibody. The heavy and light chains are paired via interchain disulfide bonds (dotted lines). The heavy chain can be either of the $\alpha, \gamma, \omega, \delta$

5   or ϵ isotype. The light chain is either λ or κ. An antibody of IgG1 isotype is shown.

Fig. 2   Schematic representation of a bi-specific monoclonal antibody. A bi-specific antibody contains two

10   different fuctional F(Ab) domains, indicated by the different patterns of the V_H-V_L regions.

Fig. 3   Sequence alignment of V_L and V_H of K53 and UBS-54.

15   Fig. 4   Overview of plasmids pUBS3000Neo and pCD46_3000 (Neo).

Fig. 5   A. IEF of transiently expressed pUBS3000Neo, pCD46_3000(Neo) and a combination of both. B. The upper part

20   shows a schematic representation of the expected molecules when a single light chain and a single heavy chain are expressed in a cell, leading to monoclonal antibodies UBS-54 or K53. The lower part under the arrow shows a schematic representation of the combinations produced when both heavy

25   chains and the common light chain are co-expressed in a host cell, with theoretical amounts when both heavy chains are expressed at equal levels and pair to each other with equal efficiency. The common light chain is indicated with the vertically striped bars.

30

Fig. 6. Schematic representation of the method according to the invention (see e.g. Example 2). Nucleic acid sequences encoding one light chain and three different heavy chains capable of pairing to the common light chain to give functional antibodies are introduced into host cells, and after selection of stable clones, the clones can be screened for e.g. expression levels, binding, production of functional mixtures of antibodies.

Fig. 7.   Sequence of V_H and V_L of phages directed against CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR.

Fig. 8.   Map and DNA sequence of pCRU-L01.

Fig. 9. Map of pUBS54-IgA (pCRU-L01 encoding human IgA1 against EPCAM).

Fig. 10. Dimeric bi-specific IgA with a single light chain. The method of the invention will produce a mixture of forms wherein different heavy chains can be paired, and only the most simple form is depicted in this schematic representation. The J-chain is shown to join the two monomers.

Fig. 11. Pentameric multispecific IgM with a single light chain. The method of the invention will produce a mixture of many different forms wherein different heavy chains can be paired, and only the most simple form when 5 different heavy chains are expressed with a single light chain, and all 5 different heavy chains are incorporated in the pentamer and paired to the same heavy chain, is depicted in this schematic representation. Pentamers with less specificities can also be

formed by incorporation of less than 5 different heavy chains. When the J-chain is not expressed, hexamers can also be obtained.

5   Fig. 12.   Expression of a mixture of human IgG isotypes consisting of a common light chain, but with different binding specificities in a single cell to avoid the formation of bispecific antibodies. The different binding specificities are indicated by the different colours of the VH sequences.

10   The common light chain is indicated with the vertically striped bars. The IgG1 isotype is indicated with the non-striped Fc, the IgG3 isotype is indicated with the horizontally striped Fc part.

15   Fig. 13. Map and DNA sequence of pCRU-K03.

Summary of the invention

In one aspect the present invention provides for a method of producing a mixture of antibodies in a recombinant host, the method comprising the step of:

5   expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding at least one light chain and at least three different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with said at least one light chain. A further aspect of the invention is the elimination of the production of

10   potentially non-functional light-heavy chain pairing by using pre-selected combinations of heavy and light chains. It has been recognized that phage display libraries built from a single light chain and many different heavy chains can encode antibody fragments with very distinct binding properties.

15   This feature can be used to find different antibodies having the same light chain but different heavy chains, against the same target or different targets, wherein a target can be a whole antigen or an epitope thereof. Such different targets may for instance be on the same surface (e.g. cell or

20   tissue). Such antibody fragments obtained by phage display can be cloned into vectors for the desired format, e.g. IgG, IgA or IgM, and the nucleic acid sequences encoding these formats can be used to transfect host cells. In one approach, H and L chains can be encoded by different constructs that,

25   upon transfection into a cell wherein they are expressed, give rise to intact Ig molecules. When different H chain constructs are transfected into a cell with a single L chain construct, H- and L-chains will be assembled to form all possible combinations. However, in contrast to approaches

30   where different light chains are expressed such as for the production of bispecific antibodies, this method will result only in functional binding regions. It would be particularly

useful when the host, *e.g.* a single cell line, is capable of expressing acceptable levels of recombinant antibodies, without the necessity to first amplify in said cell the nucleic acid sequences encoding the antibodies. The advantage

5 is that cell lines with only a limited copy number of said nucleic acids are expected to be genetically more stable, because there will be less recombination between the sequences encoding the heavy chains, than in cell lines where a multitude of these copies is present. A cell line suitable

10 for use in the methods according to the invention is the human cell line PER.C6™. Using this method a mixture of antibodies with defined specificities can be produced from a single cell clone in a safe, controlled, and consistent manner.

15 The invention provides a method for production of a mixture of antibodies in a recombinant host, the method comprising the step of: expressing a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding at least one light chain and at least three different heavy chains that are capable of

20 pairing with said at least one light chain in a recombinant host cell. In a preferred aspect, the recombinant host cell comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a common light chain that is capable of pairing with said at least three different heavy chains, such that the produced antibodies

25 comprise a common light chain. Obviously, those of skill in the art will recognize that "common" also refers to functional equivalents of the light chain of which the amino acid sequence is not identical. Many variants of said light chain exist wherein mutations (deletions, substitutions,

30 additions) are present that do not materially influence the formation of functional binding regions.

The invention further provides a composition comprising a mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies, wherein at least three different heavy chain sequences are represented in said mixture. In one embodiment, the light chains of such

5   mixtures have a common sequence. The mixture of antibodies can be produced by the method according to the invention. Preferably, the mixture of antibodies is more efficacious than the individual antibodies it comprises, more preferably, the mixture acts synergistically in a functional assay.

10   The invention further provides a recombinant host cell for producing mixtures of antibodies, and methods for making such host cells.

Independent clones obtained from the transfection of nucleic acid sequences encoding a light chain and more than

15   one heavy chain may express the different antibodies in the mixture at different levels. It is another aspect of the invention to select a clone using a functional assay, for the most potent mixture of antibodies. The invention therefore further provides a method for identifying at least one host

20   cell clone that produces a mixture of antibodies, wherein said mixture of antibodies has a desired effect according to a functional assay, the method comprising the steps of: (i) providing a host cell with nucleic acid sequence encoding at least one light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at

25   least two different heavy chains, wherein said heavy and light chains are capable of pairing with each other; (ii) culturing at least one clone of said host cell under conditions conducive to expression of said nucleic acid sequences; (iii) screening said at least one clone of the

30   host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies having the desired effect by a functional assay; and (iv) identifying at least one clone that produces a mixture of

antibodies having the desired effect. This method according to the invention can be performed using high-throughput procedures, if desired. The clones identified by the method can be used to produce antibody mixtures according to the

5   invention.

The invention further provides transgenic non-human animals and transgenic plants or transgenic plant cells capable of expressing mixtures of antibodies, and mixtures of antibodies produced by these.

10   The invention further provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies and a suitable carrier.

The invention further provides mixtures of antibodies for use in the treatment or diagnosis and for the preparation

15   of a medicament for use in the treatment or diagnosis of a disease or disorder in a human or animal subject.

The invention further provides a method for producing a mixture of antibodies comprising different isotypes from a single host cell clone.

20   The invention further provides a method for indentifying a mixture of antibodies having a desired effect in a functional assay.

The invention further provides a method for producing a mixture of antibodies that are capable of binding to a

25   target, the method comprising the steps of: i) bringing a phage library comprising antibodies into contact with material comprising a target, ii) at least one step of selecting phages binding to said target, iii) identifying at least two phages that comprise antibodies binding to said

30   target, wherein said at least two antibodies comprise a common light chain, iv) introducing a nucleic acid sequence encoding the light chain and a nucleic acid sequence or

sequences encoding the heavy chains of said at least two antibodies into a host cell,

v) culturing a clone of said host cell under conditions conducive to expression of said nucleic acid sequences.

5

Detailed description of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a
method for producing a mixture of antibodies in a recombinant
host, the method comprising the step of: expressing in a

5   recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid
sequences encoding at least one light chain and at least
three different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with
said at least one light chain. According to the invention,
the light and heavy chains when paired form functional

10   antigen binding domains. A functional antigen binding domain
is capable of specifically binding to an antigen.
In one aspect according to the invention, the method for
producing a mixture of antibodies according to the invention
further comprises the step of recovering the antibodies from

15   the cell or the host cell culture to obtain a mixture of
antibodies suitable for further use. In one embodiment of the
invention, a method is provided for production of a mixture
of antibodies, the method comprising the step of: expressing
in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a

20   common light chain and nucleic acid sequence or sequences
encoding at least three different heavy chains that are
capable of pairing with said common light chain, such that
the antibodies that are produced comprise common light
chains. In one aspect the common light chain is identical in

25   each light chain/heavy chain pair.

The term "antibody" as used herein means a polypeptide
containing one or more domains that bind an epitope on an
antigen, where such domains are derived from or have sequence
identity with the variable region of an antibody. The

30   structure of an antibody is schematically represented in
Fig.1. Examples of antibodies according to the invention
include full length antibodies, antibody fragments,

bispecific antibodies, immunoconjugates, and the like. An antibody according to the invention may be isotype IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA1, IgA2, IgD, IgE, IgM, and the like, or a derivative of these. Antibody fragments include Fv, Fab,

5 Fab', F(ab')$_2$ fragments, and the like. Antibodies according to the invention can be of any origin, including murine, of more than one origin, *i.e.* chimeric, humanized, or fully human antibodies. Immunoconjugates comprise antigen binding domains and a non-antibody part such as a toxin, a

10 radiolabel, an enzyme, and the like. An "antigen binding domain" preferably comprises variable regions of a heavy and a light chain, and is responsible for specific binding to an antigen of interest. Recombinant antibodies are prepared by expressing both a heavy and a light chain in a host cell.

15 Similarly, by expressing two chains with their respective light chains (or a common light chain), wherein each heavy chain/light chain has its own specificity, so-called "bispecific" antibodies can be prepared. "Bispecific antibodies" comprise two non-identical heavy-light chain

20 combinations (Fig. 2), and both antigen binding regions of a bispecific antibody may recognize different antigens or different epitopes on an antigen.

A "common light chain" according to the invention refers to light chains which may be identical or have amino acid

25 sequence differences. Said light chains may comprise mutations which do not alter the specificity of the antibody when combined with the same heavy chain, without departing from the scope of the present invention. It is for instance possible within the scope of the definition of common light

30 chains as used herein, to prepare or find light chains that are not identical but still functionally equivalent, e.g. by introducing and testing conservative amino acid changes,

changes of amino acids in regions that do not or only partly
contribute to binding specificity when paired with the heavy
chain, and the like. It is an aspect of the present invention
to use as common light chain one identical light chain to

5   combine with different heavy chains to form antibodies with
functional antigen binding domains. The use of one identical
light chain avoids the formation of heterodimers in which
pairing of light and heavy chains results in antigen binding
domains that are not functional, in other words which are not

10   capable of binding to the target antigen or antigens. The use
of a common light chain and two heavy chains has been
proposed by (Merchant et al, 1998; WO 98/50431) for a
different purpose, viz. to *increase* the formation of
functional bispecific antibodiesat the expense of antibody

15   mixture complexity. These publications teach a method for
preferentially producing one defined and desired bispecific
antibody, thereby *minimizing* the complexity of the produced
mixture. Hence, Merchant specifically teaches to prevent the
production of monospecific antibodies, because these are

20   undesired byproducts in the process for bispecific antibody
production described in those publications. Clearly, there is
no teaching in the prior art to prepare a complex mixture of
antibodies from a recombinant host cell avoiding the
formation of non-functional binding domains or the benefits

25   thereof, let alone how. In the method according to the
present invention, at least three different heavy chains that
are capable of pairing with the common light chain are
expressed. In other embodiments, the host cell according to
the invention is provided with nucleic acid sequences

30   encoding for 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more heavy chains
capable of pairing with the common light chain, to increase
the complexity of the produced mixture of antibodies.

"Different heavy chains" according to the invention may differ in the variable region and have the same constant region. In other embodiments, where it is clear from the context, they may have the same variable region and differ in

5 the constant region, e.g. be of a different isotype. The use of a mixture of antibodies having different constant regions, such as the Fc-portion, may be advantageous if different arms of the immune system are to be mobilized in the treatment of the human or animal body. In yet other embodiments, also to

10 be clear from the context, both the variable and the constant regions may differ.

A "mixture of antibodies" according to the invention comprises at least two non-identical antibodies, but may comprise 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more different

15 antibodies, and may resemble a polyclonal or at least an oligoclonal antibody mixture with regard to complexity and number of functional antigen binding molecules. The mixtures produced according to the present invention usually will comprise bispecific antibodies. If desired, formation of

20 monospecific antibodies in the mixture can be favoured over the formation of bispecific antibodies. When n heavy chains and one common light chain are expressed according to the invention in a host cell at equal levels, the theoretical percentage of bispecific antibodies produced by the method

25 according to the invention is $(1-1/n)*100\%$. The total number of different antibodies in the mixture produced by the method according to the invention is theoretically $n+\{(n^2-n)/2\}$, of which $(n^2-n/2)$ are bispecific antibodies. Distortion of the ratio of expression levels of the different heavy chains may

30 lead to values deviating from the theoretical values. The amount of bispecific antibodies can also be decreased, compared to these theoretical values, if not all heavy chains

pair with equal efficiency. It is for instance possible to
engineer the heavy chains, *e.g.* by introducing specific and
complementary interaction surfaces between selected heavy
chains, to promote homodimer pairing over heterodimer

5   pairing, contrary to what has been proposed by Merchant,
supra. Heavy chains may also be selected so as to minimize
heterodimer formation in the mixture. A special form of this
embodiment involves heavy chains of two or more different
isotypes (e.g. IgG1, IgG3, IgA). When heavy chains of

10   different isotype are expressed in the same host cell in
accordance with the present invention and one light chain
that can pair to these heavy chains, the amount of bispecific
antibodies will be reduced, possibly to very low or even to
undetectable levels. Thus, when bispecific antibodies are

15   less desirable, it is possible to produce a mixture of
antibodies according to the invention, wherein a nucleic acid
sequence encoding a common light chain and nucleic acid
sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains with a
different variable region capable of pairing to said common

20   light chain are expressed in a recombinant host, and wherein
said heavy chains further differ in their constant regions
sufficiently to reduce or prevent pairing between the
different heavy chains. The mixtures of antibodies according
to the invention may be produced from a clone that was

25   derived from a single host cell, i.e. from a population of
cells containing the same recombinant nucleic acid sequences.
It will be understood that the different heavy chains
according to the invention can be encoded on separate nucleic
acid molecules, but may also be present on one nucleic acid

30   molecule comprising different regions encoding said at least
three heavy chains. The nucleic acid molecules usually encode
precursors of the light and/or heavy chains, which when

expressed are secreted from the host cells, thereby becoming processed to yield the mature form. These and other aspects of expressing antibodies in a host cell are well known to those having ordinary skill in the art.

5   A "recombinant host cell" as used herein is a cell comprising one or more so-called transgenes, i.e. recombinant nucleic acid sequences not naturally present in said cell. These transgenes are expressed in said host cell to produce recombinant antibodies encoded by these nucleic acid

10   sequences, when these cells are cultured under conditions conducive to expression of said nucleic acid sequences. The host cell according to the invention can be present in the form of a culture from a clone that is derived from a single host cell wherein the transgenes have been introduced. To

15   obtain expression of nucleic acid sequences encoding antibodies, it is well known to those skilled in the art that sequences capable of driving such expression can be functionally linked to the nucleic acid sequences encoding the antibodies. Functionally linked is meant to describe that

20   the nucleic acid sequences encoding the antibody fragments or precursors thereof is linked to the sequences capable of driving expression such that these sequences can drive expression of the antibodies or precursors thereof. Useful expression vectors are available in the art, e.g. the pcDNA

25   vector series of Invitrogen. Where the sequence encoding the polypeptide of interest is properly inserted with reference to sequences governing the transcription and translation of the encoded polypeptide, the resulting expression cassette is useful to produce the polypeptide of interest, referred to as

30   expression. Sequences driving expression may include promoters, enhancers and the like, and combinations thereof. These should be capable of functioning in the host cell,

thereby driving expression of the nucleic acid sequences that are functionally linked to them. Promoters can be constitutive or regulated, and can be obtained from various sources, including viruses, prokaryotic, or eukaryotic

5   sources, or artificially designed. Expression of nucleic acids of interest may be from the natural promoter or derivative thereof or from an entirely heterologous promoter. Some well-known and much used promoters for expression in eukaryotic cells comprise promoters derived from viruses,

10   such as adenovirus, e.g. the E1A promoter, promoters derived from cytomegalovirus (CMV), such as the CMV immediate early (IE) promoter, promoters derived from Simian Virus 40 (SV40), and the like. Suitable promoters can also be derived from eucaryotic cells, such as methallothionein (MT) promoters,

15   elongation factor 1α (EF-1α) promoter, actin promoter, an immunoglobulin promoter, heat shock promoters, and the like. Any promoter or enhancer/promoter capable of driving expression of the sequence of interest in the host cell is suitable in the invention. In one embodiment the sequence

20   capable of driving expression comprises a region from a CMV promoter, preferably the region comprising nucleotides -735 to +95 of the CMV immediate early gene enhancer/promoter. Protein production in recombinant host cells has been extensively described, e.g. in Current Protocols in Protein

25   Science, 1995, Coligan JE, Dunn BM, Ploegh HL, Speicher DW, Wingfield PT, ISBN 0-471-11184-8; Bendig, 1988. Culturing a cell is done to enable it to metabolize, and/or grow and/or divide and/or produce recombinant proteins of interest. This can be accomplished by methods well known to persons skilled

30   in the art, and includes but is not limited to providing nutrients for the cell. The methods comprise growth adhering to surfaces, growth in suspension, or combinations thereof.

Several culturing conditions can be optimized by methods well known in the art to optimize protein production yields. Culturing can be done for instance in dishes, roller bottles or in bioreactors, using batch, fed-batch, continuous

5 systems, hollow fiber, and the like. In order to achieve large scale (continuous) production of recombinant proteins through cell culture it is preferred in the art to have cells capable of growing in suspension, and it is preferred to have cells capable of being cultured in the absence of animal- or

10 human-derived serum or animal- or human-derived serum components. Thus purification is easier and safety is enhanced due to the absence of additional animal or human proteins derived from the culture medium, while the system is also very reliable as synthetic media are the best in

15 reproducibility.

"Host cells" according to the invention may be any host cell capable of expressing recombinant DNA molecules, including bacteria such as Eschericia (e.g. E.coli), Enterobocter, Salmonalla, Bacillus, Pseudomonas, Streptomyces, yeasts such

20 as S.cerevisiae, K.lactis, P.pastoris, Candida, or yarrowia, filamentous fungi such as Neurospora, Aspergillus oryzae, Aspergillus nidulans and Aspergillus niger, insect cells such as Spodoptera frugiperda SF-9 or SF-21 cells, mammalian cells such as Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, BHK cells, mouse

25 cells including SP2/0 cells and NS-0 myeloma cells, primate cells such as COS and Vero cells, MDCK cells, BRL 3A cells, hybridomas, tumor-cells, immortalized primary cells, human cells such as W138, HepG2, HeLa, HEK293, HT1080 or embryonic retina cells such as PER.C6™, and the like. Often, the

30 expression system of choice will involve a mammalian cell expression vector and host so that the antibodies are appropriately glycosylated. A human cell line, preferably

PER.C6™, can advantageously be used to obtain antibodies with a completely human glycosylation pattern. The conditions for growing or multiplying cells (see e.g. Tissue Culture, Academic Press, Kruse and Paterson, editors (1973)) and the

5 conditions for expression of the recombinant product may differ somewhat, and optimization of the process is usually performed to increase the product yields and/or growth of the cells with respect to each other, according to methods generally known to the person skilled in the art. In general,

10 principles, protocols, and practical techniques for maximizing the productivity of mammalian cell cultures can be found in Mammalian Cell Biotechnology: a Practical Approach (M. Butler, ed., IRL Press, 1991). Expression of antibodies in recombinant host cells has been extensively described in

15 the art (see e.g. EP0120694; EP0314161; EP0481790; EP0523949; US patent 4816567; WO 00/63403. The nucleic acid molecules encoding the light and heavy chains may be present as extrachromosomal copies and/or stably integrated into the chromosome of the host cell. With regard to stability of

20 production, the latter is preferred.

The antibodies are expressed in the cells according to the invention, and may be recovered from the cells or preferably from the cell culture medium, by methods generally known to persons skilled in the art. Such methods may include

25 precipitation, centrifugation, filtration, size-exclusion chromatography, affinity chromatography, cation- and/or anion-exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, and the like. For a mixture of antibodies comprising IgG molecules, protein A or protein G affinity

30 chromatography can be suitably used (see e.g. US patents 4,801,687 and 5,151,504).

In one embodiment, at least two antibodies from the mixture produced according to the invention comprise a heavy-light chain dimer having different specificities and/or affinities. The specificity determines which antigen or epitope thereof is bound by the antibody. The affinity is a measure for the strength of binding to a particular antigen or epitope. Specific binding is defined as binding with an affinity (Ka) of at least 5 * 10E4 liter/mole, more preferably 5 * 10E5, more preferably more than 5 * 10E6, still more preferably 5 * 10E7, or more. Typically, monoclonal antibodies may have affinities which go up to 10E10 liter per mole, or even higher. The mixture of antibodies produced according to the present invention may contain at least two antibodies that bind to different epitopes on the same antigen molecule and/or may contain at least two antibodies that bind to different antigen molecules present in one antigen comprising mixture. Such an antigen comprising mixture may be a mixture of partially or wholly purified antigens such as toxins, membrane components and proteins, viral envelope proteins, or it may be a healthy cell, a diseased cell, a mixture of cells, a tissue or mixture of tissues, a tumor, an organ, a complete human or animal subject, a fungus or yeast, a bacteria or bacterial culture, a virus or virus stock, combinations of these, and the like. Unlike monoclonal antibodies that are able to bind to a single antigen or epitope only, the mixture of antibodies according to the present invention may therefore have many of the advantages of a polyclonal antibody mixture.

In a preferred embodiment, the host cell according to the method of the invention is capable of high-level expression of human immunoglobulin, i.e. at least 1 pg/cell/day, preferably at least 10 pg/cell/day and even more

preferably at least 20 pg/cell/day or more without the need for amplification of the nucleic acid molecules encoding the heavy and light chains in said host cell. In the art, amplification of the copy number of the nucleic acid

5   sequences encoding a protein of interest in e.g. CHO cells can be used to increase expression levels of the recombinant protein by the cells (see e.g. Bendig, 1988; Cockett et al, 1990; US patent 4,399,216). This is currently a widely used method. However, a significant time-consuming effort is

10   required before a clone with a desired high copy number and high expression levels has been established, and moreover clones harbouring very high copy numbers (up to hundreds) of the expression cassette often are unstable (e.g. Kim et al., 1998). It is therefore a preferred embodiment of the present

15   invention to use host cells that do not require such amplification strategies for high-level expression of the antibodies of interest. This allows fast generation of stable clones of host cells that express the mixture of antibodies according to the invention in a consistent manner. Preferably

20   host cells according to the method of the invention are derived from human embryonic retina cells that have been immortalized or transformed with adenoviral E1 sequences. A particularly preferred host cell according to methods of the present invention is PER.C6™ as deposited under ECACC no.

25   96022940, or a derivative thereof. PER.C6-derived clones can be generated fast, usually contain a limited number of copies (about 1-10) of the transgene, and are capable of high-level expression of recombinant antibodies. Therefore, such clones are expected to maintain a stable copy number over many

30   generations, which is an advantage in the production of biopharmaceuticals. PER.C6™ cells have been extensively characterized and documented, demonstrating good process of

scaling up, suspension growth and growth factor independence. Furthermore, PER.C6™ can be incorporated into a suspension in a highly reproducible manner, making it particularly suitable for large-scale production. In this regard, the

5 PER.C6™ cell line has been characterized for bioreactor growth, where it can grow to very high densities. The use of PER.C6™ for recombinant production of antibodies has been described in detail in publication WO 00/63403 and in Jones et al., Genetic Engineering News vol. 22, no. 10, 2002).

10

It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a mixture of antibodies that is obtainable by a method according to the invention. Such mixtures of antibodies are expected to be more effective than the sole components it

15 comprises, in analogy to polyclonal antibodies usually being more effective than monoclonal antibodies to the same target. Such mixtures can be prepared against a variety of target antigens or epitopes.

20 It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding at least three different heavy chains of an antibody, wherein said light chain and heavy chains are

25 capable of pairing, preferably to form a functional binding domain. The paired heavy and light chain form functional antigen binding regions against the target antigen or target antigens. The host cells according to the invention are useful in the method according to the invention. They can be

30 used to produce mixtures of antibodies according to the invention.

It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a composition comprising a mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies, wherein at least three different heavy chain sequences are represented in the mixture of recombinant antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies are routinely produced by recombinant methods. The present invention discloses mixtures of antibodies useful for diagnosis or treatment in various fields. The compositions according to the invention comprise mixtures of at least three different heavy chains paired to light chains in the form of antibodies. Preferably, the light chains of the antibodies in said mixtures have a common light chain. The mixtures may comprise bispecific antibodies. The mixtures may be produced from a clone that was derived from a single host cell, i.e. from a population of cells containing the same recombinant nucleic acid sequences. The mixtures can be obtained by methods according to the invention, or be produced by host cells according to the invention. In other embodiments, the number of heavy chains represented in said mixture is 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more. The optimal mixture for a certain purpose may be determined empirically by methods known to the person skilled in the art, or by methods provided by the present invention. Such compositions according to the invention may have several of the advantages of a polyclonal antibody mixture, without the disadvantages usually inherently associated with polyclonal antibody mixtures, because of the manner in which they are produced. It is furthermore expected that the mixture of antibodies is more efficacious than separate monoclonal antibodies. Therefore the dosage, and hence the production capacity required, may be less for the mixtures of antibodies according to the invention than for monoclonal antibodies. Furthermore, the chances of a mixture of the invention losing

its activity due to target or epitope loss is reduced, when compared to a single monoclonal antibody. In particular embodiments, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more of the antibodies present in the mixture according to the invention

5   have different specificities. Said different specificities may be directed to different epitopes on the same antigen and/or may be directed to different antigens present in one antigen comprising mixture. A composition according to the invention further may also comprise 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,

10   10, or more antibodies having different affinities for the same epitope. Antibodies with differing affinities for the same epitope may for instance be generated by methods of affinity maturation, known to the person skilled in the art. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the composition

15   according to the invention has an effect that is greater than the effect of each individual monospecific antibody present in said composition. Said effect can be measured in a functional assay. A "functional assay" according to the present invention is an assay that can be used to determine

20   one or more desired parameters of the antibody or the mixture of antibodies subject to the assay conditions. Suitable functional assays may be binding assays, apoptosis assays, antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) assays, complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) assays, inhibition of

25   cell growth or proliferation (cytostatic effect) assays, cell killing (cytotoxic effect) assays, cell signaling assays, assays for measuring inhibition of binding of pathogen to target cell, assays to measure the secretion of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) or other secreted molecules,

30   assays for bacteriostasis, bactericidal activity, neutralization of viruses, assays to measure the attraction of components of the immune system to the site where

antibodies are bound, including in situ hybridization
methods, labeling methods, and the like. Clearly, also in
vivo assays such as animal models, including mouse tumor
models, models of autoimmune disease, virus-infected or
5   bacteria-infected rodent or primate models, and the like, can
be used for this purpose. The efficacy of a mixture of
antibodies according to the invention can be compared to
individual antibodies in such models by methods generally
known to the person skilled in the art.

10

It is another aspect of the present invention to provide
a method for identifying at least one host cell clone that
produces a mixture of antibodies, wherein said mixture of
antibodies has a desired effect according to a functional
15   assay, the method comprising the steps of: (i) providing a
host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding at
least one light chain and nucleic acid sequence or sequences
encoding at least two different heavy chains, wherein said
heavy and light chains are capable of pairing with each
20   other; (ii) culturing at least one clone of said host cell
under conditions conducive to expression of said nucleic acid
sequences; (iii) screening said at least one clone of the
host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies having
the desired effect by a functional assay; and (iv)
25   identifying at least one clone that produces a mixture of
antibodies having the desired effect. Preferably, said host
cell comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a common
light chain that is capable of pairing with said at least two
different heavy chains, such that produced antibodies
30   comprise common light chains, as described above. In specific
embodiments said culturing in step (ii) and said screening in
step (iii) of the method is performed with at least two

clones. The method may optionally include an assay for measuring the expression levels of the antibodies that are produced, which assay may be during or after step (ii) according to the method, or later in the procedure. Such

5   assays are well known to the person skilled in the art, and include protein concentration assays, immunoglobulin specific assays such as ELISA, RIA, DELFIA, and the like. In particular embodiments of said method according to the invention, the host cell comprises nucleic acid sequence or

10 sequences encoding at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more heavy chains capable of pairing with said at least one light chain. Functional assays useful for the method according to the invention may be assays for apoptosis, ADCC, CDC, cell killing, inhibition of proliferation, virus neutralization,

15 bacterial opsonization, receptor-mediated signaling, cell signaling, bactericidal activity, and the like. Useful screening assays for anti-cancer antibodies have for instance been described in US patent 6,180,357. Such assays may also be used to identify a clone according to the method of the

20 present invention. It is for instance possible to use enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) for the testing of antibody binding to their target. Using such assays, it is possible to screen for antibody mixtures that most avidly bind the target antigen (or mixture of target antigens

25 against which the mixture of antibodies is to be tested). Another possibility that can be explored is to directly screen for cytotoxicity or cytostatic effects. It is possible that upon such a different screen, other or the same clones producing mixtures of antibodies will be chosen than with the

30 ELISA mentioned above. The screening for cell killing or cessation of growth of cancerous cells may be suitably used according to the invention. Cell death can be measured by

various endpoints, including the absence of metabolism or the denaturation of enzymes. In one possible embodiment of the present invention, the assay is conducted by focusing on cytotoxic activity toward cancerous cells as an endpoint. For

5 this assay, a live/dead assay kit, for example the LIVE/DEAD® Viability/Cytotoxicity Assay Kit (L-3224) by Molecular Probes, can suitably be used. Other methods of assessing cell viability, such as trypan blue exclusion, ^{51}Cr release, Calcein-AM, Alamar Blue™, LDH activity, and similar methods

10 can also be used. The assays may also include screening of the mixture of antibodies for specificity to the desired antigen comprising tissue. The antibodies according to the invention may have a limited tissue distribution. It is possible to include testing the mixtures of antibodies

15 against a variety of cells, cell types, or tissues, to screen for mixtures of antibodies that preferably bind to cells, cell types or tissues of interest.

When monoclonal antibodies are produced by recombinant host cells, a screening step is usually performed to assess

20 expression levels of the individual clones that were generated. The addition of more heavy chains to produce mixtures adds a level of complexity to the production of antibodies. When host cells are transfected with nucleic acid molecules encoding the light and heavy chains that will form

25 the mixture of antibodies desired, independent clones may arise containing the same genetic information, but nevertheless differing in expression levels, thereby producing different ratios of the encoded antibodies, giving rise to different mixtures of antibodies from the same

30 genetic repertoire. The method according to the invention is useful for identifying a clone that produces an optimal mixture for a certain purpose.

The culturing and/or screening according to steps (ii) and (iii) respectively, may be suitably performed using high-throughput procedures, optionally in an automated fashion. Clones can e.g. be cultured in 96-well or other multi-well

5   plates, e.g. in arrayed format, and screened for production of a desired mixture. Robotics may be suitably employed for this purpose. Methods to implement high-throughput culturing and assays are generally available and known to the person skilled in the art. It will be clear that also for this

10   method according to the invention, it is beneficial to use host cells capable of high level expression of proteins, without the need for amplification of the nucleic acid encoding said proteins in said cell. In one embodiment, said host cell is derived from a human embryonic retinoblast cell,

15   that has been immortalized or transformed by adenoviral E1 sequences. In a preferred embodiment, said cell is derived from PER.C6™. This cell line has already been shown to be amenable to high-throughput manipulations, including culturing (WO 99/64582).

20   In specific embodiments of the present invention, said mixture of antibodies according to the method of identifying at least one host cell according to the invention, comprises at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more antibodies having different specificities and/or affinities.

25   A potential advantage of the method will be that it will allow exploring many possible combinations simultaneously, the combinations inherently including the presence of bispecific antibodies in the produced mixture. Therefore more combinations can be tested than by just mixing purified known

30   monoclonal antibodies, both in number of combinations and in ratios of presence of different antibodies in these combinations.

The clone that has been identified by the method according to the invention, can be used for producing a desired mixture of antibodies. It is therefore another aspect of the present invention to provide a method of producing a

5   mixture of antibodies, the method comprising the step of: culturing a host cell clone identified by the method of identifying at least one host cell clone that produces a mixture of antibodies according to the invention, said culturing being under conditions conducive to expression of

10   the nucleic acid molecules encoding the at least one light chain and the at least two different heavy chains. The produced antibodies may be recovered from the host cells and/or from the host cell culture, e.g. from the culture medium. The mixture of antibodies can be recovered according

15   to a variety of techniques known to the person skilled in the art.

It is yet another aspect of the present invention to provide a mixture of antibodies that is obtainable by the method according to the invention, described above. Said mixtures

20   can be used for a variety of purposes, such as in treatment or diagnosis of disease, and may replace, or be used in addition to, monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies.

The methods according to the present invention may

25   suitably use nucleic acid molecules for encoding the antibodies, which nucleic acid molecules have been obtained by any suitable method, including in vivo, e.g. immunization, methods or in vitro, e.g. antibody display methods (Amstutz et al, 2001; Mössner and Plückthun, 2001; A. Plückthun et al,

30   In vitro selection and evolution of proteins. In: Adv. Prot. Chem., F.M. Richards et al, Eds, Academic Press, San Diego, 2001, vol 55: 367-403), such as phage display, ribosome

display or mRNA display (e.g. C. Schaffitzel et al., In vitro selection and evolution of protein-ligand interactions by ribosome display. In: Protein-Protein Interactions. A Molecular Cloning Manual, E. Golemis, Ed., Cold Spring Harbor

5 Laboratory Press, New York, 2001, pp 535-567; Schaffitzel et al, 1999; WO 98/54312; WO 01/75097), and yeast display (e.g. WO 99/36569). Methods of identifying antibodies to a certain target, which target may be a known antigen or an unknown antigen present in an antigenic mixture, by phage display are

10 known to the person skilled in the art. In general, a library of phages that express an antigen binding domain or derivative thereof on their surface, said antigen binding domain encoded by genetic material present in said phages, is incubated with the antigen or antigen mixture of interest,

15 after which binding of a subpopulation of the phages that display antigen binding sites binding to the desired antigen is obtained whereas the non-binding phages are discarded. Such selection steps may be repeated one, two, or more times to obtain a population of phages that are more or less

20 specific for the antigen of interest. Phage display methods to obtain antibodies, parts or derivatives thereof have been extensively described in e.g. McCafferty et al, 1990; Marks et al, 1991, 1993; Hoogenboom and Winter, 1992; Chester et al, 1994; Burton and Barbas 1994; Winter et al, 1994; De

25 Kruif et al, 1995a, 1995b; Harrison et al, 1996; WO 90/02809; WO 92/01047; WO 93/19172; WO 93/11236; WO 93/06213; EP 0425661; EP 0589877, EP 0436597; US patents 5,223,409, 5,571,698, 5,885, 793, 5, 969,108, 6,172,197, 6,265,150. The library used for such screening may be generated by using the

30 genetic information of one or more light chains, combined with genetic information encoding a plurality of heavy chains. The library described by De Kruif et al. (1995b)

comprises 7 light chains. Therefore, in a panel of phages
binding to a target, which can e.g. be obtained by methods
described in De Kruif et al (supra); US patent 6,265,150; not
more than 7 different light chains will be represented, and
5   if the panel is large enough, several phages with the same
light chain coupled to unrelated heavy chains may be found.
Such phages can be used to obtain the nucleic acid molecules
useful in the methods according to the present invention.
It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a
10 method for producing a mixture of antibodies to a target, the
method comprising the steps of: i) bringing an antibody
display library comprising antibodies or antibody fragments
into contact with material comprising a target, ii) at least
one step of selecting antibodies or antibody fragments
15 binding to said target, iii) identifying at least two
antibodies or antibody fragments binding to said target,
wherein said at least two antibodies or antibody fragments
comprise a common light chain, iv) introducing a nucleic acid
sequence encoding the light chain and a nucleic acid sequence
20 or nucleic acid sequences encoding the heavy chains of said
at least two antibodies into a host cell, v) culturing a
clone of said host cell under conditions conducive to
expression of said nucleic acid sequences. The antibody
display library may be a phage display library, a ribosome
25 display library, an mRNA display library, or a yeast display
library. Step i) and ii) may optionally be repeated one or
more times.
The nucleic acid sequences encoding the antibodies obtained
by the phage display, ribosome display or yeast display
30 method may be converted to encode any desired antibody format
such as IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA, IgM, IgD, IgE, before
introducing them into a host cell, using standard molecular

cloning methods and means known to the person skilled in the art (e.g. described in Boel et al, 2000).

It will be clear to the skilled person that libraries in which only one light chain is represented are especially

5   useful in light of the present invention, since all antibodies that can be obtained from such a library, will have a common light chain that is functional in binding target antigen with each of the heavy chains. In other words, in accordance with the methods of the invention the formation

10   of non-functional light chain-heavy chain dimers is avoided. Phage antibody display libraries having extensive H chain repertoires and unique or very few L chain sequences have been disclosed in the art (Nissim et al, 1994; Vaughan et al, 1996). In general, the specificity of an antibody appears to

15   be determined to a large extent by its heavy chain, which is supported by the following observations. In the process of receptor editing, a mechanism of B-cells to monitor if their immunoglobulin receptor encodes a potentially harmful autoantibody, B-cells expressing an autoantibody replace the

20   expressed heavy chain with another heavy chain while retaining the the expressed light chain. Thus, a new antibody specificity is generated that does not encode an autoantibody. This shows that a single light chain can successfully dimerize with multiple heavy chains to form

25   different antibody specificities (Nemazee and Weigert, 2000; Nemazee, 2000; Casellas et al, 2001). Series of transfected cell lines using a single heavy chain gene with different light chain genes have been reported, the antibodies produced to a large extent maintaining their specificity, regardless

30   of the light chain (Radic et al, 1991). Different antibodies have been obtained from a library that has been constructed using a single light chain (Nissim et al, 1994). We have

obtained several antibodies from the library described by De
Kruif et al (1995), which was constructed using 7 light
chains, that have the same light chain but different
specificities (see e.g. example 1: antibodies binding to
5   EpCAM and to CD46, described in WO 01/48485 and WO 02/18948,
respectively). Besides screening a phage library against a
target, it will be also possible to start with an antibody
that has already proven its merits, and use the light chain
of this antibody in the preparation of a library of heavy
10 chains combined with this particular light chain only,
according to methods known to the person skilled in the art
(see references supra about phage display). Using this
strategy, a monoclonal antibody can be used to obtain a
mixture of antibodies according to the invention,
15 functionally resembling a polyclonal or oligoclonal antibody
to the same target. Alternatively, a method reminiscent of
the method described by Jespers et al (1994) to obtain a
human antibody based on a functional rodent antibody can be
used. The heavy chain of a known antibody of non-human origin
20 is first cloned and paired as a template chain with a
repertoire of human light chains for use in phage display,
after which the phages are selected for binding to the
antigen or mixture of antigens. The selected light chain is
in turn paired with a repertoire of human heavy chains
25 displayed on a phage, and the phages are selected again to
find several heavy chains that when paired with the light
chain are able to bind to the antigen or mixture of antigens
of interest. This enables creating a mixture of human
antibodies against a target for which thus far only a non-
30 human monoclonal antibody is described. It is possible that a
mixture according to the present invention already has
beneficial functional effects when the individual antibodies

do not have high affinities for the target, whereas high affinities are often required for monoclonal antibodies to be effective. This would have the advantage that affinity maturation may be required in less instances for methods and

5   mixtures according to the present invention than when an approach with monoclonal antibodies is envisaged.

The heavy and light chain coding sequences can be introduced simultaneously or consecutively into the host

10   cell. It is also an aspect of the invention to prepare a host cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a light chain of an antibody. Such a cell can for instance be obtained by transfection of said nucleic acid, and optionally a clone can be identified that has a high expression of the

15   light chain. An established clone may then be used to add genetic information encoding 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more heavy chains of the invention by introducing the nucleic acid molecules encoding these into cells of the clone that already contains the light chain. The nucleic acid molecules

20   encoding the heavy chains may be introduced into said host cell concomitantly. It is of course also possible to introduce them consecutively, e.g. by using different selection markers, which can be advantageous if not all heavy chains can be introduced simultaneously because the cells do

25   not take up enough copies of recombinant nucleic acid molecules. Methods to introduce recombinant nucleic acid molecules into host cells are well known to the person skilled in the art, and include transfection, electroporation, calcium phosphate precipitation, virus

30   infection, and the like. The skilled person has several possibilities to introduce more vectors with nucleic acid sequences of interest into the same host cell, see e.g.

Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatis, Molecular Cloning: A
Laboratory Manual, 2nd edition, 1989; Current Protocols in
Molecular Biology, Ausubel FM, et al, eds, 1987; the series
Methods in Enzymology (Academic Press, Inc.). Suitable

5   dominant selection markers for introducing nucleic acids into
eukaryotic host cells according to the invention may be G418
or neomycin (geneticin), hygromycin or mycophenolic acid,
puromycin, and the like, for which genes encoding resistance
are available on expression vectors. Further possibilities

10   include for instance the use of vectors containing DHFR genes
or glutamate synthetase to select in the presence of
methotrexate in a DHFR⁻ cell or the absence of glutamine in a
glutamine auxotroph, respectively. The use of expression
vectors with different selection markers enables subsequent

15   transfections with heavy chain sequences of interest into the
host cell, which already stably contains other heavy chains
introduced previously by use of other selection markers. It
is also possible to use selection markers that can be used
more than once, e.g. when containing mutations, introns, or

20   weakened promoters that render them concentration dependent
(e.g. EP0724639; WO01/32901; US patent 5,733,779).
Alternatively, a selection marker may be re-used by deleting
it from the host cell after use, e.g. by site-specific
recombination. A selectable marker located between sequences

25   recognized by a site-specific recombinase, e.g. lox-sites or
FRT-sites, is used for the generation of the first stable
transfectant (see for Cre-lox site-specific recombination
Wilson and Kola, 2001). Subsequently, the selectable marker
is excised from the host cell DNA by the matching site-

30   specific recombinase, e.g. Cre or Flp. A subsequent
transfection can suitably use the same selection marker.
Different host cell clones each comprising the genetic

information encoding a different light chain may be prepared. If the antibodies are identified by an antibody display method, it is thus possible to prepare several host cells, each comprising one light chain present in the antibody

5   display library. After identifying antibodies that bind to a target using antibody display, the nucleic acid molecules encoding the heavy chains can be introduced into the host cell containing the common light chain that is capable of pairing to the heavy chains. It is therefore an aspect of the

10   present invention to provide a method for making a host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies, the method comprising the steps of: introducing into said host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and nucleic acid sequence or sequences encoding 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or

15   more different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with said light chain, wherein said nucleic acid molecules are introduced consecutively or simultaneously. It is of course also possible to introduce at least two of said nucleic acid molecules simultaneously, and introduce at least one other of

20   said nucleic acid molecules consecutively. In yet another aspect according to the invention, a method is provided for making a recombinant host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies, the method comprising the step of: introducing a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding 2,

25   3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more different heavy chains into a recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain capable of pairing with at least two of said heavy chains.

       In case it would appear that a recombinant host cell

30   according to the invention does not express sufficient light chain to dimerize with all of the expressed at least two

heavy chains, extra copies of the nucleic acid molecules encoding the light chain may be transfected into the cell.

Besides random integration after transfection, methods to integrate the transgenes in predetermined positions of the
5   genome resulting in favorable expression levels, can also be used according to the invention. Such methods may for instance employ site-specific integration by homologous recombination (see e.g. WO 98/41645), or make use of site-specific recombinases (Gorman and Bullock, 2000).
10

It is yet another aspect of the present invention to provide a transgenic non-human mammal or a transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding at
15   least two different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with said light chain, wherein said nucleic acid sequences encoding said light and heavy chains are under the control of a tissue-specific promoter. Promoters in plants may also be non-tissue specific, and general gene expression elements,
20   such as the CaMV 35S promoter and nopaline synthase polyA addition site can also be used. Said light chain is a common light chain according to the invention. In specific embodiments, the transgenic animal or plant according to the invention comprises 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more heavy
25   chain sequences. Besides cell culture as a production system for recombinant proteins, the art also discloses the use of transgenic animals, transgenic plants, and for instance transgenic chickens to produce proteins in the eggs, and the like to produce recombinant proteins of interest (Wilmut et
30   al, 1991; Pollock et al, 1999; Larrick and Thomas, 2001; WO 90/05188; WO 91/08216; WO 92/22644; WO 93/03164; WO 94/05796; WO 93/25567). These usually comprise the recombinant gene or

genes encoding one or more proteins of interest in operable association with a tissue-specific promoter. It has for instance be shown that recombinant antibodies can be produced at high levels in the milk of transgenic animals, that

5   contain the nucleic acids encoding a heavy and a light chain behind a mammary gland specific promoter (e.g. Limonta et al, 1995; Pollock et al, 1999; Van Kuik-Romein et al, 2000; see for extensive description WO 95/17085, US patents 5827690 and 5849992). Particularly useful in this respect are cows,

10   sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, mice, and the like, which can be milked to obtain antibodies. Useful promoters are the casein promoters, such as the β-casein promoter, the αS1-casein promoter, the whey acidic protein (WAP) promoter, the β-lactoglobulin promoter, the α-lactalbumin promoter, and the

15   like. Production of biopharmaceutical proteins in the milk of transgenic mammals has been extensively described in (Platenburg et al, 1994; Limonta et al, 1995; Pollock et al, 1999; Van Kuik-Romeijn et al, 2000; WO 90/05188; WO 91/08216; WO 92/22644; WO 93/03164; WO 94/05796; WO 93/25567; WO

20   95/17085). Besides mammary gland specific promoters, also other tissue-specific promoters may be used, directing the expression to the blood, urine, saliva, and the like. The generation of transgenic animals comprising recombinant nucleic acid molecules has been extensively documented, and

25   may include micro-injection of oocytes (see e.g. Wilmut and Clark, 1991; Platenburg et al, 1994), nuclear transfer after transfection (see e.g. Schnieke et al, 1997), infection by recombinant viruses (e.g. Archer et al, 1994; US patent 6291740), and the like. Nuclear transfer and cloning methods

30   for mammalian cells are known to the person skilled in the art, and are e.g. described in (Campbell et al, 1996; Wilmut

et al, 1997; Dinneys et al, 2002; WO 95/17500; WO 98/37183; WO 98/39416; WO 00/31237; WO 00/42174; EP1149898; US patent 6011197). It is nowadays possible to clone most of these animals, to generate lines of animals that are genetically

5   identical, which renders it possible for a person skilled in the art to create such a line once an individual animal producing the desired mixture of antibodies has been identified. Alternatively, classical breeding methods can be used to generate transgenic offspring. Strategies for the

10   generation of transgenic animals for production of recombinant proteins in milk are described in Brink et al, 2000.

Transgenic plants or plant cells producing antibodies have also been described (Hiatt et al, 1989; Larrick et al,

15   2001; Peeters et al, 2001; Fischer et al, 2000), and useful plants for this purpose include corn, maize, tobacco, soybean, alfalfa, rice, and the like. Constitutive promoters that can for instance be used in plant cells are the CaMV 35S and 19S promoters, Agrobacterium promoters nos and ocs. Other

20   useful promoters are light inducible promoters such as rbcS. Tissue-specific promoters can for instance be seed-specific, such as promoters from zein, napin, beta-phaseolin, ubiquitin, or tuber-specific, leaf-specific (e.g. useful in tobacco), root-specific, and the like. It is also possible to

25   transform the plastid organelle by homologous recombination, to express proteins in plants. Methods and means for expression of proteins in recombinant plants or parts thereof, or recombinant plant cell culture, are known to the person skilled in the art and have been for instance been

30   described in (Giddings et al, 2000; WO 01/64929; WO 97/42313; US patents 5202422, 5888789, 5959177, 6080560; See for practical guidelines: Methods In Molecular Biology vol. 49

"Plant Gene Transfer And Expression Protocols", Jones H, 1995). Other transgenic systems for producing recombinant proteins have also been described, including the use of transgenic birds to produce recombinant proteins in eggs (e.g

5   WO 97/47739), and the use of transgenic fish (e.g. WO 98/15627), and can be used in combination with the teachings of the present invention to obtain mixtures of antibodies. It is also possible to use an in vitro transciption/translation or in vitro translation system for the expression of mixtures

10   of antibodies according to the present invention. It will be clear to the skilled person that the teachings of the current invention will allow producing mixtures of antibodies in systems where recombinant nucleic acid encoding the light chain and heavy chains can be introduced and expressed.

15   Preferably such systems are able to produce antibodies encoded by said nucleic acid sequences, without the use of amplification of said nucleic acid sequences in said systems. In another aspect of the invention, a cell from a transgenic non-human animal or a transgenic plant according to the

20   invention is provided. Such cells can be used to generate the animals or plants according to the invention, using techniques known to the person skilled in the art, such as nuclear transfer or other known methods of cloning whole organisms from single cells. The cells according to the

25   invention may also be obtained by introducing the light and at least two heavy chain sequences into isolated cells of non-human animals or plants, which cells are capable of becoming part of a transgenic animal or plant. Particularly useful for such purposes are embryonic stem cells. These can

30   contribute to the germ line, and therefore the genetic information introduced into such cells can be passed to future generations. In addition, plant cell cultures of

cotton, corn, tomato, soybean, potato, petunia, and tobacco can be utilized as hosts, when transformed with the nucleic acid molecules encoding the light chain and the heavy chains, e.g. by use of the plant transforming bacterium Agrobacterium

5   tumefaciens or by particle bombardment, or by infecting with recombinant plant viruses.

It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of

10   recombinantly produced antibodies and a suitable carrier, wherein at least two different heavy chains are represented in said mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers as used herein are exemplified, but not limited to, adjuvants, solid carriers,

15   water, buffers, or other carriers used in the art to hold therapeutic components, or combinations thereof. In particular embodiments, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more different heavy chains are represented in said mixture. Said mixture can be obtained by mixing recombinantly produced

20   monoclonal antibodies, but may also be obtained by methods according to the present invention. Said mixture may therefore comprise a common light chain for said antibodies. Said mixture may comprise bispecific antibodies. Said mixture may be produced from a clone that was derived from a single

25   host cell, i.e. from a population of cells containing the same recombinant nucleic acid molecules. The term "recombinantly produced" as used herein refers to production by host cells that produce antibodies encoded by recombinant nucleic acids introduced in such host cells or ancestors

30   thereof. It does therefore not include the classical method of producing polyclonal antibodies, whereby a subject is immunized with an antigen or antigen comprising mixture,

after which the antibodies produced by this subject are recovered from the subject, e.g. from the blood.

It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a mixture of antibodies wherein at least two heavy chains are represented, for use in the treatment or diagnosis of a human or animal subject. In another aspect, the invention provides the use of a mixture of antibodies wherein at least two different heavy chains are represented, for the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment or diagnosis of a disease or disorder in a human or animal subject. In particular embodiments, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more heavy chains are represented in said mixture. Said mixtures of antibodies may be mixtures of antibodies according to the invention, or obtained by methods according to the invention. Antibodies present in said mixture may preferably comprise a common light chain. The mixtures may comprise bispecific antibodies, and may be recombinantly produced from a clone that was derived from a single host cell, i.e. from a population of cells containing the same recombinant nucleic acid molecules. The targets may be used to screen an antibody display library, as described supra, to obtain 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more antibodies comprising a common light chain that bind to the target, and produce a mixture of these according to the teachings of the present invention. Virtually any area of medicine where monoclonal antibodies can be used is amenable for the use of the mixtures according to the invention. This can e.g. include treatment of auto-immune diseases and cancer, including solid tumors of the brain, head- and neck, breast, prostate, colon, lung, and the like, as well as hematologic tumors such as B-cell tumors. Neoplastic disorders which can be treated with the mixtures

according to the present invention include leukemias, lymphomas, sarcomas, carcinomas, neural cell tumors, squamous cell carcinomas, germ cell tumors, metastases, undifferentiated tumors, seminomas, melanomas, myelomas,

5 neuroblastomas, mixed cell tumors, neoplasias caused by infectious agents, and other malignancies. Targets for the antibody mixtures may include, but are not limited to, the HER-2/Neu receptor, other growth factor receptors such as VEGFR1 and VEGFR2 receptor, B-cell markers such as CD19,

10 CD20, CD22, CD37, CD72, etc, T-cell markers such as CD3, CD25, etc, other leukocyte cell surface markers such as CD33 or HLA-DR, etc, cytokines such as TNF, interleukins, receptors for these cytokines such as members of the TNF receptor family, and the like. It is anticipated that the use

15 of such mixtures of antibodies in the treatment of cancerous tissues or other complex multi-antigen comprising cells such as microorganisms or viruses will give rise to less occurrence of epitope-loss escape variants than the use of single monoclonal antibodies. Several treatments nowadays use

20 polyclonal mixtures of antibodies, which are derived from immunized humans or animals. These treatments may be replaced by use of the mixtures according to the present invention. Use of these mixtures can also include use in graft-versus-host rejections, known in the art of transplantation, e.g. by

25 use of anti-thymocyte antibodies. It is anticipated that the mixtures of antibodies are superior to monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of complex antigens or antigen comprising mixtures such as bacteria or viruses. Therefore, use according to the invention can also include use against

30 strains of bacteria and fungi, e.g. in the treatment of infectious diseases due to pathogenic bacteria such as multidrug resistant S.aureus and the like, fungi such as

Candida albicans and Aspergillus species, yeast and the like. The mixtures according to the invention may also be used for post exposure profylaxis against viruses, such as members of the genus Lyssavirus e.g. rabies virus, or for therapeutic

5   use against viruses such as Varicella-Zoster Virus, Adenoviruses, Respiratory Syncitium Virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Human Metapneumovirus, Influenzavirus, and the like. Mixtures according to the inventions can also be used to protect against agents, both

10   bacteria and viruses, and against toxic substances that are potential threats of biological warfare. Therefore, use according to the invention can also include use against strains of bacteria such as *Bacillus anthracis, Clostridium botulinum* toxin, *Clostridium perfringens* epsilon toxin

15   *Yersinia Pestis, Francisella tulariensis, Coxiella burnetii, Brucella* species, *Staphylococcus* enterotoxin B, or against viruses such as Variola major, alphaviruses causing meningoencephalitis syndromes (EEEV, VEEV, and WEEV), viruses known to cause hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, Marburg and

20   Junin virus or against viruses such as Nipah virus, Hantaviruses, Tickborne encephalitis virus and Yellow fever virus or against toxins e.g. Ricin toxin from Ricinus communis and the like. Use of the mixtures according to the invention can also include use against unicellular or

25   multicellular parasites. Recombinant mixtures of antibodies according to the invention may become a safe alternative to polyclonal antibodies obtained from pools of human sera for passive immunization, or from sera of hyper-immunized animals. The mixtures may be more efficacious in various

30   therapeutic applications than recombinant monoclonal antibodies, including cancer, allergy, viral diseases, chronic inflammation, and the like.

It has been described that homodimerization of tumor-reactive monoclonal antibodies markedly increases their ability to induce growth arrest or apoptosis of tumor cells (Ghetie et al, 1997). Possibly, when antibodies against receptors or

5   other surface antigens on target cells, such as tumor cells or infectious microorganisms, are produced according to the present invention, the bispecific antibodies present in mixtures according to the invention may also crosslink different receptors or other antigens on the surface of

10   target cells, and therefore such mixtures may be very suitable for killing such cells. Alternatively, when bispecific antibodies are less desirable, the present invention also provides methods to recombinantly produce mixtures of antibodies comprising mainly monospecific

15   antibodies. It has been described that the efficacy of treatment with Rituximab™ (anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody) was increased when anti-CD59 antibodies were added (Herjunpaa et al, 2000). Therefore, it is expected that inclusion of antibodies against CD59 in a mixture according to the

20   invention comprising anti-tumor antibodies in the form of B-cell receptor recognizing antibodies increases the sensitivity of tumor cells to complement attack. It has also been shown that a triple combination cocktail of anti-CD19, anti-CD22, and anti-CD38-saporin immunotoxins is much more

25   effective than the individual components in the treatment of human B-cell lymphoma in an immunodeficient mouse model (Flavell et al, 1997). Many other combinations may also be feasible and can be designed by the person skilled in the art. In general, the use of antibody mixtures that are

30   capable of recognizing multiple B-cell epitopes will likely decrease the occurrence of escape variants.

Another possible target is a transmembrane tyrosine kinase

receptor, encoded by the Her-2/Neu (ErbB2) proto-oncogene (see e.g. US patents 5,772,997 and 5,783,186 for anti-Her2 antibodies). Her-2 is overexpressed on 30% of highly malignant breast cancers, and successful antibodies against

5   this target, marketed under the name Herceptin™ (Trastuzumab), have been developed. It has been shown that targeting multiple Her-2 epitopes with a mixture of monoclonal antibodies results in improved antigrowth activity of a human breast cancer cell line in vitro and in vivo

10   (Spiridon et al, 2002). Her-2 may therefore be a good target for antibody mixtures according to the present invention. Antibodies useful for this purpose can be obtained by methods described in the present invention, including antibody display methods.

15

Human antibodies are capable of eliciting effector function via binding to immunoglobulin receptors on immune effector cells. Human IgG, and in particular IgG_1 and IgG_3, fix complement to induce CDC and interact with Fcγ receptors to

20   induce antibody dependent cell mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC), phagocytosis, endocytosis, induction of respiratory burst and release of inflammatory mediators and cytokines. Human IgA interacts with FcαR, also to result in efficient activation of ADCC and phagocytosis of target cells. Hence, due to the

25   differential distribution of FcγR and FcαR on peripheral blood cells (Huls et al., 1999), using a mixture of antibodies directed against the target and consisting of both IgG and IgA would potentially maximize the recruitment and activation of different immune effector cells. Such a mixture

30   of both IgG and IgA could be obtained by producing the IgG and IgA monoclonal antibody in a separate production process

using two distinct production cell lines, but could also be obtained from a single cell line producing both the IgG and the IgA monoclonal antibody. This would have the advantage that only a single production process has to be developed.

5 Thus when different heavy chains are mentioned, also heavy chains differing in their constant regions are encompassed in the invention. The principle of using a common light chain can also be used for the production of a mixture of isotypes from a host cell. It is therefore yet another aspect of the

10 present invention to provide a method for producing a mixture of antibodies comprising different isotypes from a host cell, the method comprising the step of: culturing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two heavy chains of

15 different isotype that are capable of pairing with said light chain, under conditions conducive to expression of said nucleic acid sequences. According to this aspect of the invention, different heavy chains may have identical variable regions, and only differ in their constant regions (i.e. be

20 of different isotype and have the same specificity). In a particular embodiment, said isotypes comprise at least an IgG and an IgA and/or IgM, preferably IgG1 or IgG3 and IgA. Other combinations of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4 can also be used.

In other embodiments according to this aspect of the

25 invention, not only the constant regions of the heavy chains may differ, but also the variable regions, thereby giving rise to different specificities, paired with the same light chain. When bispecific antibodies are not desired for a given purpose, e.g. because the mixtures of antibodies are less

30 efficacious because of the presence of the bispecific antibodies, it is possible to use at least two heavy chains combined with the common light chain according to the

invention wherein said heavy chains differ sufficient in their constant regions to reduce or prevent pairing between the different heavy chains, e.g. by using heavy chains of different isotypes, e.g. an IgG1 and an IgG3. It is

5   anticipated that the heavy chains of different isotype will pair much less efficient, if at all, compared to the same heavy chains. Alternatively, it is also possible to engineer the different heavy chains in their constant region such that homodimerization is favored over heterodimerization, e.g. by

10 introducing self-complementary interactions (see e.g. WO 98/50431 for possibilities, such as "protuberance-into-cavity" strategies (see WO 96/27011)). It is therefore another aspect of the present invention to provide a method for producing a mixture of antibodies in a recombinant host,

15 the method including the step of: expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a common light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains that differ in the variable region and that are capable of pairing with said common light chain, and

20 wherein said heavy chains further differ in their constant regions sufficiently to reduce or prevent pairing between the different heavy chains. In one embodiment, said heavy chains are of different isotype. In specific embodiments, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more different heavy chains are expressed.

25 Mixtures of antibodies obtainable by this method are also embodied in the present invention. Such mixtures will comprise mainly monospecific antibodies.

The teachings of the present invention can also be used to obtain novel multispecific antibodies or mixtures thereof.

30 Therefore, in another aspect, the invention provides a method for producing a mixture of antibodies comprising dimeric IgA isotype {(IgA)$_2$} antibodies in a recombinant host, wherein at

least part of said dimeric IgA antibodies have different binding regions in each of the IgA subunits, the method comprising the step of: expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a common light chain and

5   nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains of IgA isotype capable of pairing to said common light chain, wherein said different heavy chains differ in their variable region. Dimerization of the IgA molecules can be enhanced by co-expressing J-chain (Yoo et al, 1999). Said

10 dimeric IgA antibodies have two specificities (see Fig.10 for a schematic representation of one possible form produced and present in the mixture). In yet another aspect the invention provides a method for producing a mixture of antibodies comprising an IgM antibody having at least two different

15 specificities, the method comprising the step of expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a common light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains of IgM isotype, wherein said heavy chains are capable of pairing to said common light

20 chain and form functional antigen binding regions. Up to five specificities can be comprised in an IgM pentamer in the presence of J-chain, and up to six in an IgM hexamer in the absence of J-chain (Yoo et al, 1999). Therefore, in specific embodiments, 3, 4, 5, or 6 IgM heavy chains are co-expressed

25 with the common light chain according to this aspect of the invention. See Fig. 11 for a schematic representation of one of the possible forms that can be produced and present in the mixture according to this aspect of the invention, when five different heavy chains are expressed with a common light

30 chain. The invention also provides for IgA dimers, IgM pentamers or hexamers having at least two different specificities. These molecules can be produced from a clone

of a single host cell according to the invention. Such
molecules, harbouring antigen binding regions with different
specificities, can bind different epitopes on the same
antigen, different antigens on one cell, or different

5   antigens on different cells, thereby crosslinking the
antigens or cells.

It is yet another aspect of the present invention to provide
a method for identifying a mixture of antibodies having a

10   desired effect in a functional assay, the method comprising
the steps of i) adding a mixture of antibodies in a
functional assay, and ii) determining the effect of said
mixture in said assay, wherein said mixture of antibodies
comprises antibodies having a common light chain. In a

15   preferred embodiment said mixture is comprised in a
composition according to the present invention.

Examples

The following examples are provided to illustrate the
invention, and are not to be construed in any way to limit
the scope of the invention. The practice of this invention
will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional
techniques of immunology, molecular biology, microbiology,
microbiology, cell biology, and recombinant DNA, which are
within the skill of the art. See e.g. Sambrook, Fritsch and
Maniatis, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd
edition, 1989; Current Protocols in Molecular Biology,
Ausubel FM, et al, eds, 1987; the series Methods in
Enzymology (Academic Press, Inc.); PCR2: A Practical
Approach, MacPherson MJ, Hams BD, Taylor GR, eds, 1995;
Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Harlow and Lane, eds, 1988.

**Example 1   Production of a mixture of monoclonal
antibodies with a common light chain and two heavy chains in
a single cell**

Clone UBS-54 and Clone K53 were previously isolated by
selections on the colorectal cell line SW40 (Huls et al.,
1999) and on a heterogeneous mixture of mononuclear cells of
a patient with multiple myeloma (WO 02/18948), respectively,
with a semi-synthetic library (de Kruif et al., 1995b).
Further studies revealed that clone UBS-54 and K53 bound to
the EP-CAM homotypic adhesion molecule (Huls et al., 1999)
and the membrane cofactor protein CD46 (WO 02/18948),
respectively. DNA sequencing of the clones revealed that they
were unique in the Heavy chain CDRs, but that they contained
an identical light chain sequence (Fig. 3). The V_H and V_L of
clones UBS-54 and K53 were inserted into an expression vector

containing the HAVT20 leader sequence and all the coding
sequences for the constant domains of a human IgG1 with a
Kappa light chain by a method essentially as described (Boel
et al, 2000), which resulted in plasmids pUBS3000Neo and

5   pCD46_3000(Neo) (Fig. 4). These plasmids were transiently
expressed either alone or in combination in PER.C6™ cells.
In brief, each 80 cm² flask was transfected by incubation for
4 hours with 140 µl lipofectamine + 10 µg DNA (either
pUBS3000Neo, pCD46_3000(Neo) or 10 µg of both) in serum-free

10   DMEM medium at 37°C. After 4 hours, this was replaced with
DMEM + 10% FBS, and the cells were grown overnight at 37°C.
Cells were then washed with PBS and the medium was replaced
with Excell 525 medium (JRH Bioscience). The cells were
allowed to grow at 37°C for 6 days, after which the cell

15   culture supernatant was harvested. Human IgG specific ELISA
analysis (described in WO 00/63403) indicated that IgG was
present at approximately 10 µg/ml for all flasks containing
expression plasmids. No IgG1 was present in a control flask
which was not transfected with expression plasmid.

20   Human IgG from each supernatant was subsequently purified
using Protein A affinity chromatography (Hightrap Protein A
HP, cat.no. 1-040203) according to standard procedures,
following recommendations of the manufacturer (Amersham
Biosciences). After elution, samples were concentrated in a

25   Microcon YM30 concentrator (Amicon) and buffer exchanged to
10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.7. Twelve µg of purified IgG was
subsequently analyzed on Isoelectric focusing gels (Serva
Pre-cast IEF gels, pH range 3-10, cat.no. 42866). The samples
were loaded on the low pH side and after focussing stained

30   with colloidal blue (Fig. 5). Lane 1 shows transiently
expressed K53, Lane 2 shows transiently expressed UBS-54 and
Lane 3 shows the IgG sample of the cells in which both

antibodies were co-transfected. Clearly, K53 and UBS-54 each have a unique pI profile and the sample form the cotransfection showed other unique isoforms, with the major isoform having a pI in between those of K53 and UBS-54. This

5 is also anticipated on the basis of the theoretic pI when calculated with the ProtParam tool provided on the Expasy homepage (http://www.expasy.ch; Appel et al., 1994). K53 and UBS-54 have a theoretic pI of 8.24 and 7.65, respectively, whereas an isoform representing a heterodimer of one UBS-54

10 heavy chain and one K53 heavy chain has a theoretical pI of 8.01. Assembly of such a heterodimer can only occur when a single cell translates both the heavy chain of K53 and the heavy chain of UBS-54 and assembles these into a full length IgG molecule together with the common light chain.

15 Therefore, this experiment shows that it is possible to express two unique human IgG molecules in a single cell and that a heterodimer consisting of these two unique binding specificities is also efficiently formed. To investigate whether more complex mixtures according to the invention can

20 be prepared, analogously to this example, the experiment is performed expressing three different heavy chains and one light chain.

Example 2   **Production of a mixture of antibodies against human B-cell markers in a clonal PER.C6™ cell line.**

A method for producing a mixture of antibodies according to the invention, using expression in a recombinant host cell of

5   a single light chain and three different heavy chains capable of pairing to the single light chain to form functional antibodies, is exemplified herein and is schematically shown in Fig. 6.

Phages encoding antibodies capable of binding proteins

10   present on human B-cells, i.e. CD22, CD72 and Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC)class II (further referred to as HLA-DR) were previously isolated from a semi-synthetic phage library (de Kruif et al., 1995; van der Vuurst de Vries & Logtenberg, 1999). DNA sequencing of the V_H and V_L

15   sequences of the phages clone B28 (anti-CD22), clone I-2 (anti-HLA-DR) and clone II-2 (anti-CD72) revealed that they all contain a unique V_H sequence, but a common light chain sequence (Vλ3) with an identical CDR region (Fig. 7).

The V_H and V_L sequences of clones B28, I-1 and II-2 are

20   cloned behind the HAVT20 leader sequences of expression plasmid pCRU-L01 (Fig. 8), or a plasmid derived from pCRU-L01, to obtain plasmids encoding a full length human IgG_1-lambda with binding specificities for CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR. These plasmids are designated pgG102-120-C01, pgG102-025-C01,

25   and pgG102-026-C01 respectively, but will further be referred to as pCRU-CD22, pCRU-CD72 and pCRU-HLA-DR, respectively. Stable PER.C6™ derived cell lines are generated, according to methods known to the person skilled in the art (see e.g. WO 00/63403), the cell lines expressing antibodies encoded by

30   genetic information on either pCRU-CD22, pCRU-CD72 or pCRU-HLA-DR and a cell line expressing antibodies encoded by all three plasmids. Therefore, PER.C6™ cells are seeded in DMEM

plus 10% FBS in tissue culture dishes (10 cm diameter) or T80 flasks with approximately 2.5×10^6 cells per dish and kept overnight under their normal culture conditions (10% CO_2 concentration and 37°C). The next day, transfections are

5 performed in separate dishes at 37°C using Lipofectamine (Invitrogen Life Technologies) according to standard protocols provided by the manufacturer, with either 1-2 μg pCRU-CD22, 1-2 μg pCRU-CD72, 1-2 μg pCRU-HLA-DR or 1 μg of a mixture of pCRU-CD22, pCRU-CD72 and pCRU-HLA-DR. As a control

10 for transfection efficiency, a few dishes are transfected with a LacZ control vector, while a few dishes will be not transfected and serve as negative controls.
After 4 to 5 hours, cells are washed twice with DMEM and refed with fresh medium without selection. The next day,

15 medium are replaced with fresh medium containing 500 μg/ml G418. Cells are refreshed every 2 or 3 days with medium containing the same concentrations of G418. About 20-22 days after seeding, a large number of colonies are visible and from each transfection at least 300 are picked and grown via

20 96-well and/or 24-well via 6-well plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, cells are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-cultured colony) and production levels of recombinant human IgG antibody are determined in the supernatant using an ELISA specific for human IgG_1 (described in WO 00/63403).

25 Also, at this stage G418 is removed from the culture medium and never re-applied again. For a representative number of colonies larger volumes will be cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG_1 fraction from the conditioned supernatant using Protein A affinity chromatography according

30 to standard procedures. Purified human IgG_1 from the various clones is analyzed on SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the targets CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR using cell

transfectants expressing these human antigens on their cell surface (transfectants expressing CD72 and HLA-DR have been described by van der Vuurst-de Vries and Logtenberg, 1999; a CD22 transfectant has been prepared according to similar

5 standard procedures in PER.C6^{TM}).

Colonies obtained from the co-transfection with pCRU-CD22, pCRU-CD72 and pCRU-HLA-DR are screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of each of the three constructs. The identity of the PCR products is further confirmed by DNA

10 sequencing.

Next, it is demonstrated that a clonal cell line accounts for the production of each of the three binding specificities, i.e. proving that a single cell is able to produce a mixture of more than two functional human IgG's. Therefore, a limited

15 number of colonies, which screened positive for the production of each of the three binding specificities (both by PCR at the DNA level as well as in the specified binding assays against CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR), are subjected to single cell sorting using a fluorescence activated cell

20 sorter (FACS) (Becton & Dickinson FACS VANTAGE SE). Alternatively, colonies are seeded at 0.3 cells/well to guarantee clonal outgrowth. Clonal cell populations, hereafter designated as sub-clones, are refreshed once a week with fresh medium. Sub-clones are grown and transferred from

25 96-wells via 24- and 6-wells plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, sub-clones are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-clone) and production levels of recombinant human IgG$_1$ antibody are determined in the supernatant using a human IgG$_1$ specific ELISA. For a representative number of sub-

30 clones, larger volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG$_1$ fraction from the conditioned supernatant using

Protein A affinity chromatography according to standard procedures.

Purified human IgG_1 from the various sub-clones is subsequently analyzed as described above for human IgG_1
5   obtained from the parental clones, i.e. by SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the targets CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR. Sub-clones will also be screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of each of the three constructs pCRU-CD22, pCRU-CD72 and pCRU-HLA-DR. The identity
10   of the PCR products is further confirmed by DNA sequencing. Other methods such as Southern blot and/or FISH can also be used to determine whether each of the three constructs are present in the clonal cell line.

Sub-clones that are proven to be transgenic for each of the
15   three constructs are brought into culture for an extensive period to determine whether the presence of the transgenes is stable and whether expression of the antibody mixture remains the same, not only in terms of expression levels, but also for the ratio between the various antibody isoforms that are
20   secreted from the cell. Therefore, the sub-clone culture is maintained for at least 25 population doubling times either as an adherent culture or as a suspension culture. At every 4-6 population doublings, a specific production test is performed using the human IgG specific ELISA and larger
25   volumes are cultured to obtain the cell pellet and the supernatant. The cell pellet is used to assess the presence of the three constructs in the genomic DNA, either via PCR, Southern blot and/or FISH. The supernatant is used to purify the recombinant human IgG_1 fraction as described supra.
30   Purified human IgG_1 obtained at the various population doublings is analyzed as described, i.e. by SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the targets CD22, CD72

and HLA-DR using cell transfectants expressing these antigens.

Example 3   Screening of clones expressing multiple human IgGs for the most potent mixture of functional human IgGs

Functionality of the antibody mixture is analyzed in cell-based assays to determine whether the human IgG_1 mixture
5   inhibits proliferation and/or induces apoptosis of B-cell lines, such as for example Ramos. Other cell lines can also be used. In addition the antibody mixtures are analyzed for their potential to induce antibody dependent cellular toxicity and complement dependent cytotoxicity of for example
10   Ramos cells.

In each of the following experiments the functionality of the antibody mixture recognizing the targets CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR is analyzed and can be compared to each of the individual IgG1 antibodies and to an equimolar combination of the three
15   individual IgG1 specificities.

To assess the ability of the antibody mixtures to inhibit the proliferation of Ramos cells, these cells are incubated in 96-well plates $(0.1 - 1.0 \times 10^5/ml)$ with several
20   concentrations $(5 - 20$ µg/ml$)$ of the antibody mixtures against CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR for 24 hours. The proliferation of the cells is measured by ^{3}H-thymidine incorporation during another 16 hours of culture. Inhibition of growth is determined by plotting the percentage of ^{3}H-thymidine
25   incorporation compared to untreated cells (taken as 100% reference value).

To analyze apoptosis induction of Ramos cells, these cells are stimulated in 48-well plates $(0.2 - 1.0 \times 10^6/ml)$ with
30   several concentrations $(5 - 20$ µg/ml$)$ of the antibody mixtures against the targets CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR for 24 or 48 hours. After the incubation period the phosphatidyl serine

exposure on apoptotic cells is analyzed (Koopman G et al, 1994). Therefore, the cells are harvested, washed twice with PBS and are incubated at RT for 10 min with 100 µl FITC-labelled annexin V (Caltag) diluted 1:25 in annexin V binding

5   buffer (Caltag). Prior to the analysis of the samples by flow cytometry (FACSCalibur, Becton Dickinson, San Jose, CA) propidium iodide (PI)(Sigma) is added to a final concentration of 5 µg/ml to distinguish necrotic cells (annexin V-/PI+) from apoptotic cells (annexin V+/PI-, early

10   apoptotic cells; annexin V+/PI+, late apoptotic cells).
In an alternative assay, apoptosis is induced by crosslinking the antibody mixtures against CD22, CD72 and HLA-DR on the cell surface of Ramos cells with 25 µg/ml of F(ab)2 of goat-anti-human (Fc-specific) polyclonal antibodies (Jackson

15   Immunoresearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA) during the incubation period.
In another alternative assay, apoptosis is induced by incubating the Ramos cells with several concentrations (5 - 20 µg/ml) of the antibody mixtures against CD22, CD72 and

20   HLA-DR while co-incubating them with the chemosensitizing agents doxorubicin (Calbiochem) or dexamethasone (UMCU,Utrecht, the Netherlands).

Antibody Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity of the antibody

25   mixtures is analyzed using peripheral blood mononuclear cells as effector cells in a standard ^{51}Cr release assay (Huls et al, 1999). To this purpose, 1-3 x 10^6 Ramos cells are labelled with 100 µCi (Amersham, Buckinghamshire, UK) for 1 hour at 37°C. After three washes with medium, the Ramos

30   target cells are plated in U bottom 96 well plates at 5 x 10^3 cells/well. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells that are

obtained from healthy donors by Ficoll-Hypaque density gradients are then added to each well at effector:target ratios ranging from 80:1 to 10:1 in triplicate. The cells are incubated at 37°C in the presence of various concentrations

5   of the antibody mixtures (5 - 20 μg/ml) in a final volume of 200 μl. After 4 hours of incubation part of the supernatant is harvested and ^{51}Cr release is measured. The percantage of specific lysis is calculated using the following formula: % specific lysis = ([experimental cpm - spontaneous

10   cpm]/[maximal cpm - spontaneous cpm] x 100%). Maximal ^{51}Cr release is determined by adding triton X-100 to a final concentration of 1% to the target cells and spontaneous release is determined after incubation of the target cells with medium alone.

15   Complement dependent cytotoxicity is determined in a similar assay. Instead of the effector cells, now 50 μl human serum is added to the target cells. Subsequently, the assay is performed in the same manner.

Alternatively, ADCC and CDC of the antibody mixtures is

20   determined using a Europium release assay (Patel and Boyd, 1995) or using an LDH release assay (Shields et al, 2001).

Example 4   Use of phage display to isolate multiple phages with an identical V_L sequence against a predefined target (Her-2), and production in a recombinant host cell of a mixture of antibodies capable of binding this target.

5   Phages displaying scFv fragments capable of binding multiple epitopes present on the same protein, for example the epidermal growth factor receptor Her-2, can be isolated from a semi-synthetic phage library (de Kruif et al., 1995a,b). It is possible to identify several of such phages and select the

10   ones comprising the same light chain sequence, for further use according to the invention. The semi-synthetic library is formed by mixing 7 sub-libraries that each contain a different light chain (de Kruif et al, 1995a,b). It is therefore particularly practical to use such a sub-library,

15   containing only one light chain and many heavy chains, for screening so that multiple antibodies with an identical V_L sequence are obtained, and further used for expressing the antibody mixtures according to the invention.

For the selection of phages against Her-2 several fusion

20   proteins are generated comprising different parts of the extracellular domain of Her-2 that are fused to the CH2 and CH3 domains of human IgG1. For this purpose a pCDNA3.1zeo expression vector (InVitrogen) has been constructed that contains in its multiple cloning region an XhoI restriction

25   site in the hinge region in frame prior to the CH2 and CH3 domains of human IgG1. Using a Her-2 cDNA clone as a template PCR fragments is generated using standard molecular biology techniques known to a person skilled in the art. These fragments consist of a unique 5′ restriction site, a start

30   codon followed by a eukaryotic leader sequence that is linked in frame to either the total extracellular (EC) domain of Her-2 or to a part of the EC domain of Her-2 that is followed

in frame by an XhoI restriction site. These PCR fragments are subsequently cloned in frame with the CH2-CH3 IgG1 region into the pCDNA3.1zeo expression vector. In addition to the fusion protein containing the total EC domain of Her-2,

5 several smaller fusion proteins are generated containing non-overlapping fragments of the Her-2 EC domain. These constructs encoding the Her-2-Ig fusionproteins are used for transient transfection of 293T cells using the lipofectamine reagent (Gibco). Five days after transfection the

10 supernatants of the 293T cells are harvested and Her-2-Ig fusion proteins are purified using protein A affinity chromatography according to standard procedures. Her-2-Ig fusion proteins containing non-overlapping fragments of the Her-2 EC domain are coated for 2 hours at 37° onto the

15 surface of Maxisorp™ plastic tubes (Nunc) at a saturating concentration (0.5 - 5 µg/ml). The tubes are blocked for 1 h in 2% fat free milk powder dissolved in PBS (MPBS). Simultaneously, 500 µl (approximately 10^{13} cfu) of a semi-synthetic phage display library (a sub-library according to

20 the terminology used above) in which only one Vkappa1 light chain is represented prepared as described by De Kruif et al (1995a,b) and references therein, is added to two volumes of 4% MPBS. In addition, human serum is added to a final concentration of 15% and blocking is allowed to proceed for

25 30-60 min. The Her-2-Ig-coated tubes are emptied and the blocked phage library is added. The tube is sealed and rotated slowly for 1 h, followed by 2 h of incubation without rotation. The tubes are emptied and washed 10 times in PBS containing 0.1% Tween-20, followed by washing 5 times in PBS.

30 1 ml glycine-HCL, 0.05 M, pH 2.2 is added, and the tube is rotated slowly for 10 min. The eluted phages are added to 500 µl 1M Tris-HCl pH 7.4. To this mixture, 3.5 ml of

exponentially growing XL-1 blue bacterial culture is added. The tubes are incubated for 30 min at 37°C without shaking. Subsequently, the bacteria are plated on 2TY agar plates containing ampicillin, tetracycline and glucose. After

5 overnight incubation of the plates at 37°C, the colonies are scraped from the plates and used to prepare an enriched phage library, essentially as described by De Kruif et al. (1995a). Briefly, scraped bacteria are used to inoculate 2TY medium containing ampicillin, tetracycline and glucose and are grown

10 at 37°C to an OD_{600nm} of ~0.3. Helper phages are added and allowed to infect the bacteria after which the medium is changed to 2TY containing ampicillin, tetracycline and kanamycin. Incubation is continued overnight at 30°C. The next day, the bacteria are removed from the 2TY medium by

15 centrifugation after which the phages are precipitated using polyethylene glycol 6000/NaCl. Finally, the phages are dissolved in a small volume of PBS-1% BSA, filter-sterilized and used for a next round of selection. The selection/re-infection procedure is performed twice. After the second

20 round of selection, individual *E.coli* colonies are used to prepare monoclonal phage antibodies. Essentially, individual colonies are grown to log-phase and infected with helper phages after which phage antibody production is allowed to proceed overnight. Phage antibody containing supernatants are

25 tested in ELISA for binding activity to Her-2-total EC-Ig coated 96 wells plates.

Selected phage antibodies that are obtained in the screen described above, are validated by ELISA for specificity. For

30 this purpose, Her-2-Ig fusion proteins containing non-overlapping fragments of the Her-2 EC domain are coated to Maxisorp ELISA plates. After coating, the plates are blocked

in 2% MPBS. The selected phage antibodies are incubated in an equal volume of 4% MPBS. The plates are emptied, washed once in PBS, after which the blocked phages are added. Incubation is allowed to proceed for 1 h, the plates are washed in PBS

5   0.1% Tween-20 and bound phages are detected using an anti-M13 antibody conjugated to peroxidase. The procedure is performed simultaneously using a control phage antibody directed against thyroglobulin (De Kruif et al. 1995a,b), which serves as a negative control.

10 In another assay the selected phage antibodies are analyzed for their ability to bind BT474 human breast cancer cells that express Her-2. For flow cytometry analysis, phage antibodies are first blocked in an equal volume of 4% MPBS for 15 min at 4°C prior to the staining of the BT474 cells.

15 The binding of the phage antibodies to the cells is visualized using a biotinylated anti-M13 antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) followed by streptavidin-phycoerythrin (Caltag).

20 Alternatively, phage antibodies recognizing multiple epitopes on Her-2 are selected using a method based upon competition of phage binding to Her-2 with binding of the well characterized murine anti-Her-2 antibodies HER50, HER66 and HER70 (Spiridon and Vitetta etal, 2002). To this purpose

25 2×10^6 BT474 cells are incubated at 4°C with approximately 10^{13} cfu (0.5 ml) of a semi-synthetic phage display library in which only one Vkappa1 light chain is represented prepared as described supra and blocked with 2 volumes of medium containing 10% of FBS. The mixture is

30 slowly rotated at 4°C for 2 hours in a sealed tube. Subsequently, non-bound phages are removed by two washes with 50 ml of cold medium containing 10% FBS. Hereafter, phages

recognizing multiple epitopes on Her-2 are eluted by
resuspending the BT474 cells in 1 ml of cold medium
containing saturating concentrations (5-20 μg/ml) of the
HER50, HER66 and HER70 murine anti-Her-2 antibodies. The

5   cells are left on ice for 10 min, spun down and the
supernatant containing the anti-Her-2 phage antibodies is
used to reinfect XL1-Blue cells as described supra.

From the panel of Her-2-specific phage antibodies generated

10   by de screens described above, three phage antibodies are
selected that are recognizing three different non-overlapping
epitopes on the Her-2 protein.
The V_H sequences and the unique Vkappa1 light chain sequence
of these clones, provisionally designated VK1HER2-1, VK1HER2-

15   2 and VK1HER2-3, are cloned behind the HAVT20 leader
sequences of expression plasmid pCRU-K03 (Fig. 13; pCRU-K03
differs from pCRU-L01 only in the constant region of the
light chain: in the pCRU-L01 the constant region is from a
lambda-family, in the pCRU-K03 from a kappa-family, and the

20   choice between these vectors can be made based on the family
of the light chain that has been used in the screen, although
it is also possible to clone V_L regions derived from a kappa
family into a vector encoding a constant light chain of a
lambda family and vice versa), or a plasmid derived from

25   pCRU-K03, to obtain plasmids encoding a full length human
IgG_1-kappa with binding specificities for Her-2. These
plasmids are provisionally designated as pCRU-VK1HER2-1,
pCRU-VK1HER2-2 and pCRU-VK1HER2-3, respectively.
Stable PER.C6™ derived cell lines are generated, according

30   to methods known to the person skilled in the art, the cell
lines expressing antibodies encoded by genetic information on
either pCRU-VK1HER2-1, pCRU-VK1HER2-2 or pCRU-VK1HER2-3 and a

cell line expressing antibodies encoded by all three
plasmids. Therefore, PER.C6™ cells are seeded in DMEM plus
10% FBS in tissue culture dishes (10 cm diameter) or T80
flasks with approximately 2.5×10^6 cells per dish and kept
overnight under their normal culture conditions (10% CO_2
concentration and 37°C). The next day, transfections are
performed in separate dishes at 37°C using Lipofectamine
(Invitrogen Life Technologies) according to standard
protocols provided by the manufacturer, with either 1-2 µg
pCRU-VK1HER2-1, 1-2 µg pCRU-VK1HER2-2, 1-2 µg pCRU-VK1HER2-3
or 1 µg of a mixture of pCRU-VK1HER2-1, pCRU-VK1HER2-2 and
pCRU-VK1HER2-3. As a control for transfection efficiency, a
few dishes are transfected with a LacZ control vector, while
a few dishes are not transfected and serve as negative
controls.

After 5 hours waarom vorige vb 4 hrs en hier 5?, cells are
washed twice with DMEM and refed with fresh medium without
selection. The next day, medium is replaced with fresh medium
containing 500 µg/ml G418. Cells are refreshed every 2 or 3
days with medium containing the same concentrations of G418.
About 20-22 days after seeding, a large number of colonies
are visible and from each transfection at least 300 are
picked and grown via 96-well and/or 24-well via 6-well plates
to T25 flasks. At this stage, cells are frozen (at least 1,
but usually 4 vials per sub-cultured colony) and production
levels of recombinant human IgG antibody are determined in
the supernatant using an ELISA specific for human IgG_1. Also,
at this stage G418 is removed from the culture medium and
never re-applied again. For a representative number of
colonies larger volumes are cultured to purify the
recombinant human IgG_1 fraction from the conditioned
supernatant using Protein A affinity chromatography according

to standard procedures. Purified human IgG$_1$ from the various clones is analyzed on SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF), assayed binding to Her-2-Ig fusion proteins by ELISA, and analyzed for binding to Her-2 on the surface of BT474 cells

5   by flow cytometry.

Clones obtained from the co-transfection of pCRU-VK1HER2-1, pCRU-VK1HER2-2 and pCRU-VK1HER2-3 are screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of each of the three constructs. The identity of the PCR products is further

10   confirmed by DNA sequencing.

Next, it is demonstrated that a clonal cell line accounts for the production of each of the three binding specificities. Therefore, a limited number of colonies, which screened positive for the production of each of the three binding

15   specificities (both by PCR at the DNA level as well as in the specified binding assays against Her-2, are subjected to single cell sorting using a fluorescence activated cell sorter (FACS) (Becton & Dickinson FACS VANTAGE SE). Alternatively, colonies are seeded at 0.3 cells/well to

20   guarantee clonal outgrowth. Clonal cell populations, hereafter designated as sub-clones, are refreshed once a week with fresh medium. Sub-clones are grown and transferred from 96-wells via 24- and 6-wells plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, sub-clones are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials

25   per sub-clone) and production levels of recombinant human IgG$_1$ antibody are determined in the supernatant using a human IgG$_1$ specific ELISA. For a representative number of sub-clones, larger volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG$_1$ fraction from the conditioned supernatant using

30   Protein A affinity chromatography according to standard procedures.

Purified human IgG$_1$ from the various sub-clones is
subsequently analyzed as described above for human IgG$_1$
obtained from the parental clones, i.e. by SDS-PAGE, Iso-
electric focusing (IEF) and binding to Her-2. Sub-clones will

5   also be screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or
absence of each of the three constructs pCRU-VK1HER2-1, pCRU-
VK1HER2-2 and pCRU-VK1HER2-3. The identity of the PCR
products is further confirmed by DNA sequencing.
Other methods such as Southern blot and/or FISH can also be

10 used to determine whether each of the three constructs are
present in the clonal cell line.
Sub-clones that are proven to be transgenic for each of the
three constructs are brought into culture for an extensive
period to determine whether the presence of the transgenes is

15 stable and whether expression of the antibody mixture remains
the same, not only in terms of expression levels, but also
for the ratio between the various antibodies that are
secreted from the cell. Therefore, the sub-clone culture is
maintained for at least 25 population doubling times either

20 as an adherent culture or as a suspension culture. At every
4-6 population doublings, a specific production test is
performed using the human IgG specific ELISA and larger
volumes are cultured to obtain the cell pellet and the
supernatant. The cell pellet is used to assess the presence

25 of the three constructs in the genomic DNA, either via PCR,
Southern blot and/or FISH. The supernatant is used to purify
the recombinant human IgG$_1$ fraction as described supra.
Purified human IgG$_1$ obtained at the various population
doublings is analyzed as described, i.e. by SDS-PAGE, Iso-

30 electric focusing (IEF) and binding to Her-2 by ELISA and by
flow cytometry using BT474 cells.

Functionality of the antibody mixture of anti-Her-2 antibodies is analyzed in cell-based assays to determine whether the human IgG$_1$ mixture inhibits proliferation and/or induces apoptosis of BT474 cells. In addition the antibody

5   mixtures are analyzed for their potential to induce antibody dependent cellular toxicity and complement dependent cytotoxicity of BT474 cells.

In each of the experiments described below the functionality

10   of the antibody mixture recognizing Her-2 can be analyzed and compared to each of the individual IgG1 antibodies and to an equimolar combination of the three individual monospecific IgG1 molecules.

15   To assess the ability of the antibody mixtures to inhibit the proliferation of BT474 cells, these cells are allowed to adhere overnight in 96-well plates (1.5 x 10^5/well) and are subsequently incubated with several concentrations (5 - 20 µg/ml) of the antibody mixtures against Her-2 for 72 hours.

20   The proliferation of the cells is measured by ^{3}H-thymidine incorporation during the last 6 hours of culture. Inhibition of growth is determined by plotting the percentage of ^{3}H-thymidine incorporation compared with untreated cells (taken as 100% reference value).

25

To analyze apoptosis induction of BT474 cells, these cells are allowed to adhere overnight in 48-well plates (2.5 x 10^5/well in 1ml) and are subsequently incubated with several concentrations (5 - 20 µg/ml) of the antibody mixtures

30   against Her-2 for 4 hours. Hereafter the cells are harvested by trypsinization, are washed twice with PBS and are

incubated at RT for 10 min with 100 μl FITC-labelled annexin
V (Caltag) diluted 1:25 in annexin V binding buffer (Caltag).
Prior to the analysis of the samples by flow cytometry
(FACSCalibur, Becton Dickinson, San Jose, CA) propidium

5   iodide (PI)(Sigma) is added to a final concentration of 5
μg/ml to distinguish necrotic cells (annexin V^-/PI^+) from
apoptotic cells (annexin V^+/PI^-, early apoptotic cells;
annexin V^+/PI^+, late apoptotic cells).

10   Antibody Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity of the antibody
mixtures is analyzed using peripheral blood mononuclear cells
as effector cells and BT474 cells as target cells in a
standard ^{51}Cr release assay as descibed supra (Huls et al,
1999). Complement dependent cytotoxicity is determined in a

15   similar assay. Instead of the effector cells, now 50 μl human
serum is added to the target cells. Subsequently, the assay
is performed as described supra.
Alternatively, ADCC and CDC of the antibody mixtures is
determined using a Europium release assay (Patel and Boyd,

20   1995) or using an LDH release assay (Shields et al, 2001).

The functionality of the antibody mixtures against Her-2 is
also tested using in vivo animal models, such as for instance
described in Spiridon et al, 2002.

25

Example 5

Expression of different functional human IgGs in the milk of transgenic animals

The V_H and V_H sequences of phages against proteins present on
5   human B-cells, i.e. CD22 clone B28), CD72 (clone II-2) and
HLA-DR (clone I-2) (Fig. 7) are cloned into expression
plasmid pBC1 (as provided in the pBC1 Mouse Milk Expression
System, Invitrogen Life Technologies) to obtain mammary-gland
and lactation-specific expression of these human IgG
10   molecules in transgenic animals, according to the
manufacturers instructions. These mammary-gland specific
expression vectors, encoding the antibody sequences for anti-
CD22, anti-CD72 and anti-HLA-DR are introduced into the
murine germline according to the manufacturers instructions.
15   Such procedures have been described in detail previously
(Platenburg et al., 1994). Obtained pups are screened for the
presence of each of the three constructs by PCR on DNA
isolated from the tail. Pups, either male or female,
confirmed for being transgenic for each of the three
20   antibodies, are weaned and matured. Female transgenic mice
are fertilized at the age of 6-8 weeks and milk samples are
obtained at several time points after gestation. Male
transgenic mice are mated with non-transgenic females and
female transgenic offspring (as determined with PCR as
25   described above) is mated and milked as described above for
the female transgenic founders. Whenever needed, female or
male transgenic founders are mated for another generation to
be able to obtain sufficient amounts of transgenic milk for
each founder line. Transgenic milk is analyzed for the
30   presence of human IgG with a human IgG specific ELISA, which
does not cross-react with mouse IgG or other mouse milk
components. Human IgG is purified from transgenic mouse milk

using Protein A affinity chromatography according to standard
procedures. Purified human IgG is analyzed on SDS-PAGE,
Isoelectric focusing and binding on the targets CD22, CD72
and HLA-DR. Functionality of the antibody mixture is analyzed
5   as described supra.

Example 6   **Production of an IgA/IgG mixture against a predefined target in a clonal PER.C6™ cell line**

The V_H-V_L sequences of the phage UBS-54 directed against the homotypic adhesion molecule EP-CAM (Huls et al., 1999) was

5   not only cloned into a vector encoding the constant domains of a human IgG1 with Kappa light chain (expression vector pUBS3000Neo), but also into an expression vector encoding the constant domains of a human IgA1 with Kappa light chain (expression vector pUBS54-IgA, Fig. 9). Hence, antibodies

10   derived from pUBS3000Neo and pUBS54-IgA do bind to the same epitope on EPCAM. The only differences antibodies derived from pUBS3000Neo and pUBS54-IgA are in the sequences encoding the constant domains of the heavy chain, resulting in either an IgG_1 or IgA_1 isotype. The Kappa light chain sequences of

15   these two vectors are identical.

Stable PER.C6™ derived cell lines expressing antibodies encoded by genetic information on pUBS3000Neo and pUBS54-IgA are generated by procedures well known to persons skilled in the art. Therefore, PER.C6™ cells are seeded in DMEM plus

20   10% FBS in tissue culture dishes (10 cm diameter) or T80 flasks with approximately 2.5×10^6 cells per dish and kept overnight under their normal culture conditions (10% CO_2 concentration and 37°C). The next day, transfections are performed in separate dishes at 37°C using Lipofectamine

25   (Invitrogen Life Technologies) according to standard protocols provided by the manufacturer, with either 1-2 µg pUBS3000Neo and pUBS54-IgA. As a control for transfection efficiency, a few dishes are transfected with a LacZ control vector, while a few dishes are not transfected and serve as

30   negative controls.

After 4-5 hours, cells are washed twice with DMEM and refed with fresh medium without selection. The next day, medium is

replaced with fresh medium containing 500 µg/ml G418. Cells are refreshed every 2 or 3 days with medium containing the same concentrations of G418. About 20-22 days after seeding, a large number of colonies is visible and from each

5   transfection at least 300 are picked and grown via 96-well and/or 24-well via 6-well plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, cells are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-cultured colony) and production levels of recombinant human IgG and human IgA antibody are determined in the

10   supernatant using an ELISA specific for human IgG1 as well as an ELISA specific for human IgA. Also, at this stage G418 is removed from the culture medium and never re-applied again. For a representative number of colonies larger volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG_1 and human IgA

15   fraction from the conditioned supernatant using for instance (a combination of) Protein L or LA affinity chromatography, cation exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography and gel filtration. Purified human immunoglobulins from the various clones are analyzed on SDS-

20   PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the target EPCAM using cell lines having a high expression of this molecule. The clones will also be screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of pUBS3000Neo and pUBS54-IgA. The identity of the PCR products is further confirmed by

25   DNA sequencing.
A limited number of clones, which are screened positive for the production of both EPCAM IgG_1 and EPCAM IgA, are subjected to single cell sorting using a fluorescence activated cell sorter (FACS) (Becton Dickinson FACS VANTAGE

30   SE). Alternatively, colonies are seeded at 0.3 cells/well to guarantee clonal outgrowth. Clonal cell populations, hereafter designated as sub-clones, are refreshed once a week

with fresh medium. Sub-clones are grown and transferred from 96-wells via 24- and 6-wells plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, sub-clones are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-clone) and production levels of recombinant human

5   IgG_1 and IgA antibody are determined in the supernatant using a human IgG_1 specific ELISA and a human IgA specific ELISA. For a representative number of sub-clones, larger volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG_1 and human IgA_1 fraction from the conditioned supernatant using for instance

10 (a combination of) Protein L or LA affinity chromatography, cation exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography and gel filtration. Purified human immunoglobulins from the various clones are analyzed on SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the target

15 EPCAM using cell lines having a high expression of this molecule.

Sub-clones will also be screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of pUBS3000Neo and pUBS54-IgA. The identity of the PCR products is further confirmed by DNA

20 sequencing.

Other methods such as Southern blot and/or FISH may also be used to determine whether both constructs are present in the clonal cell line.

25

Example 7   Production of a human IgG$_1$/IgG$_3$ mixture against multiple targets in a clonal PER.C6™ cell line

Phage clone UBS-54 and Clone K53 (Fig. 3) were obtained as described in Example 1. The V$_H$ and V$_L$ of clone UBS-54 was

5   inserted into an expression vector containing the HAVT20 leader sequence and all the coding sequences for the constant domains of a human IgG$_1$ with a Kappa light chain by a method essentially as described (Boel et al, 2000). The resulting plasmid was designated as pUBS3000Neo (Fig. 4). It will be

10   clear that expression vectors containing heavy chain constant domains of any desired isotype can be constructed by routine methods of molecular biology, using the sequences of these regions that are all available in the art. The V$_H$ and V$_L$ sequences of Phage clone K53 are cloned into an expression

15   vector containing the HAVT20 leader sequence and all the coding sequences for the constant domains of a heavy chain of a human IgG$_3$ with a Kappa light chain by a method essentially as described (Boel et al, 2000). This expression vector is designated as pK53IgG3.

20   These plasmids are transiently expressed either alone or in combination in PER.C6™ cells. In brief, each 80 cm^2 flask is transfected by incubation for 4 hours with 140 µl lipofectamine + 10 µg DNA (either pUBS3000Neo, pK53IgG3 or 10 µg of both) in serum-free DMEM medium at 37°C. After 4 hours,

25   this is replaced with DMEM + 10% FBS, and the cells are grown overnight at 37°C. Cells are then washed with PBS and the medium is replaced with Excell 525 medium (JRH Bioscience). The cells are allowed to grow at 37°C for 6 days, after which the cell culture supernatant is harvested. Human IgG specific

30   ELISA analysis, i.e. measuring all IgG sub-types, is done to determine the IgG concentration in transfected and non-transfected PER.C6™ cells. Human IgG from each supernatant

is subsequently purified using Protein A affinity chromatography (Hightrap Protein A HP, cat.no. 1-040203) according to standard procedures, following recommendations of the manufacturer (Amersham Biosciences). After elution, samples are concentrated in a Microcon YM30 concentrator (Amicon) and buffer exchanged to 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.7. Samples are analysed for binding to the targets EPCAM and CD46 using cell lines having a high expression of these molecules such as LS174T cells. Twelve µg of purified IgG, either transiently expressed UBS-54 IgG1, K53 IgG3 or IgG from the cells in which both antibodies were co-transfected, is subsequently analyzed on Isoelectric focusing gels (Serva Pre-cast IEF gels, pH range 3-10, cat.no. 42866). Samples are loaded on the low pH side and after focussing stained with colloidal blue. The pI values of the major isoforms for each sample are determined to illustrate whether there has been expression of UBS-54 IgG1, K53 IgG3 or bispecific heterodimers, depending on how the cells were transfected. The identification of heterodimers would indicate that single cells have translated both the IgG3 heavy chain of K53 and the IgG1 heavy chain of UBS-54 and assembled these into a full length IgG molecule together with the common light chain. The absence of bispecific heterodimers indicates that it is possible to translate both the IgG3 heavy chain of K53 and the IgG1 heavy chain of UBS-54 in single cells, but that these do not assemble into a full length IgG molecule together with the common light chain, i.e. there is preferential binding of IgG1 and IgG3 heavy chains. This could however also be explained by the lack of co-expression of UBS-54 IgG_1 and K53 IgG_3. Therefore, stable clonal cell lines expressing both pUBS3000Neo, pK53IgG3 are generated by procedures well known to persons skilled in the art. PER.C6™

cells are seeded in DMEM plus 10% FBS in tissue culture
dishes (10 cm. diameter) or T80 flasks with approximately 2.5
x 10^6 cells per dish and kept overnight under their normal
culture conditions (10% CO_2 concentration and 37°C). The next
5 day, transfections are performed in separate dishes at 37°C
using Lipofectamine (Invitrogen Life Technologies) according
to standard protocols provided by the manufacturer, with
either 1-2 μg pUBS3000Neo, pK53IgG3 or both. As a control for
transfection efficiency, a few dishes are transfected with a
10 LacZ control vector, while a few dishes will be not
transfected and serve as negative controls.
After 4-5 hours, cells are washed twice with DMEM and refed
with fresh medium without selection. The next day, medium is
replaced with fresh medium containing 500 μg/ml G418. Cells
15 are refreshed every 2 or 3 days with medium containing the
same concentrations of G418. About 20-22 days after seeding,
a large number of colonies is visible and from each
transfection at least 300 are picked and grown via 96-well
and/or 24-well via 6-well plates to T25 flasks. At this
20 stage, cells are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per
sub-cultured colony) and production levels of recombinant
human IgG antibody are determined in the supernatant using an
ELISA specific for all sub-types of human IgG. Also, at this
stage G418 is removed from the culture medium and never re-
25 applied again. For a representative number of colonies larger
volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG from
the conditioned supernatant using Protein A affinity
chromatography (Hightrap Protein A HP, cat.no. 1-040203)
according to standard procedures, following recommendations
30 of the manufacturer (Amersham Biosciences). Purified human
immunoglobulins from the various clones are analyzed on SDS-
PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the targets

EPCAM and CD46 using cell lines having a high expression of these molecules such as LS174T cells. The clones are also screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of pUBS3000Neo and pK53IgG3. The identity of the PCR products is

5   further confirmed by DNA sequencing.

A limited number of clones, which are screened positive for the production of both EPCAM IgG1 and K53 IgG3, are subjected to single cell sorting using a fluorescence activated cell sorter (FACS) (Becton Dickinson FACS VANTAGE SE).

10   Alternatively, colonies are seeded at 0.3 cells/well to guarantee clonal outgrowth. Clonal cell populations, hereafter designated as sub-clones, are refreshed once a week with fresh medium. Sub-clones are grown and transferred from 96-wells via 24- and 6-wells plates to T25 flasks. At this

15   stage, sub-clones are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-clone) and production levels of recombinant human IgG antibody are determined in the supernatant using a human IgG specific ELISA. For a representative number of sub-clones, larger volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human

20   IgG fraction from the conditioned supernatant using Protein A affinity chromatography (Hightrap Protein A HP, cat.no. 1-040203) according to standard procedures, following recommendations of the manufacturer (Amersham Biosciences). Purified human immunoglobulins from the various clones are

25   analyzed on SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the targets EPCAM and CD46 using cell lines having a high expression of this molecules, such as for instance LS174T cells, or transfectants expressing these molecules. Sub-clones are also screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the

30   presence or absence of pUBS3000Neo and pK53IgG3. The identity of the PCR products is further confirmed by DNA sequencing. Other methods such as Southern blot and/or FISH may also be

used to determine whether both constructs are present in the clonal cell line.

Once the clonal sub-clones are available and confirmed positive for the expression of both UBS-54 IgG1 and K53 IgG3, 5 the presence of functional K53 and UBS-54 shows that it is possible to generate a mixture of functional IgG's with different isotypes with the common light chain in a single cell. Analysis of the expression of bispecific antibodies binding both EpCAM and CD46 will reveal to what extent the 10 different heavy chains having a different subtype will pair, which will influence the amount of bispecific antibodies produced.

Example 8. Selection of phage carrying single chain Fv fragments specifically recognizing rabies virus glyco protein (RVGP) using RVGP-Ig fusion protein, and expression of mixtures of antibodies against the rabies virus.

5   This example describes the production of mixtures of antibodies against the rabies virus, as another potential target. As an antigen, the Rabies Virus Glycoprotein (RVGP) is chosen, but other rabies antigens may be chosen or included as well for this purpose. Several monoclonal

10   antibodies recognizing RVGP have already been described in the art, and polyclonal antibodies have been recognized to be useful in treatment of rabies infections as well (see e.g. Schumacher et al, 1989; WO 89/09789; EP0402029; EP0445625; US patent 5695757).

15   Antibody fragments are selected using antibody phage display libraries and MAbstract™ technology, essentially as described in US patent 6,265,150 and in WO 98/15833. All procedures are performed at room temperature unless stated otherwise. The sequence of RVGP is available to the person

20   skilled in the art, for cloning purposes, see e.g. Anilionis et al, 1982; Yelverton et al, 1983; Kieny et al, 1984. An RVGP-Ig fusion protein consisting of whole RVGP fused genetically to the CH2 and CH3 domains of human IgG1 is produced using vector pcDNA3.1 Zeo-CH2-CH3 expressed in

25   PER.C6™ and coated for 2 hours at 37° onto the surface of Maxisorp™ plastic tubes (Nunc) at a concentration of 1.25 µg/ml. The tubes are blocked for 1 h in 2% fat free milk powder dissolved in PBS (MPBS). Simultaneously, 500 µl (approximately 10^{13} cfu) of a phage display library

30   expressing single chain Fv fragments (scFv's) essentially prepared as described by De Kruif et al (1995a,b) and references therein, is added to two volumes of 4% MPBS. In

this experiment, selections are performed using fractions of
the original library constructed using only one single
variable light chain gene species (e.g. a 'VK1'-library). In
addition, human serum is added to a final concentration of

5   15% and blocking is allowed to proceed for 30-60 min. The
RVGP-Ig-coated tubes are emptied and the blocked phage
library is added. The tube is sealed and rotated slowly for 1
h, followed by 2 h of incubation without rotation. The tubes
are emptied and washed 10 times in PBS containing 0.1% Tween-

10   20, followed by washing 5 times in PBS. 1 ml glycine-HCL,
0.05 M, pH 2.2 is added, and the tube is rotated slowly for
10 min. The eluted phages are added to 500 µl 1M Tris-HCl pH
7.4. To this mixture, 3.5 ml of exponentially growing XL-1
blue bacterial culture is added. The tubes are incubated for

15   30 min at 37°C without shaking. Then, the bacteria are plated
on 2TY agar plates containing ampicillin, tetracycline and
glucose. After overnight incubation of the plates at 37°C,
the colonies are scraped from the plates and used to prepare
an enriched phage library, essentially as described by De

20   Kruif et al. (1995a,b). Briefly, scraped bacteria are used to
inoculate 2TY medium containing ampicillin, tetracycline and
glucose and grown at a temperature of 37°C to an OD_{600nm} of
~0.3. Helper phages are added and allowed to infect the
bacteria after which the medium is changed to 2TY containing

25   ampicillin, tetracycline and kanamycin. Incubation is
continued overnight at 30°C. The next day, the bacteria are
removed from the 2TY medium by centrifugation after which the
phages are precipitated using polyethylene glycol 6000/NaCl.
Finally, the phages are dissolved in a small volume of PBS-1%

30   BSA, filter-sterilized and used for a next round of
selection. The selection/re-infection procedure is performed
twice. After the second round of selection, individual *E.coli*

colonies are used to prepare monoclonal phage antibodies. Essentially, individual colonies are grown to log-phase and infected with helper phages after which phage antibody production is allowed to proceed overnight. Phage antibody
5   containing supernatants are tested in ELISA for binding activity to human RVGP-Ig coated 96 wells plates.

Selected phage antibodies that are obtained in the screen described above, are validated in ELISA for
10   specificity. For this purpose, human RVGP-Ig is coated to Maxisorp ELISA plates. After coating, the plates are blocked in 2% MPBS. The selected phage antibodies are incubated in an equal volume of 4% MPBS. The plates are emptied, washed once in PBS, after which the blocked phages are added. Incubation
15   is allowed to proceed for 1 h, the plates are washed in PBS 0.1% Tween-20 and bound phages are detected using an anti-M13 antibody conjugated to peroxidase. As a control, the procedure is performed simultaneously using a control phage antibody directed against thyroglobulin (De Kruif et al.
20   1995a,b), which serves as a negative control.

The phage antibodies that bind to human RVGP-Ig are subsequently tested for binding to human serum IgG to exclude the possibility that they recognized the Fc part of the fusion protein.
25   In another assay the phage antibodies are analyzed for their ability to bind PER.C6™ cells that express RVGP To this purpose PER.C6™ cells are transfected with a plasmid carrying a cDNA sequence encoding RVGP or with the empty vector and stable transfectants are selected using standard
30   techniques known to a person skilled in the art (e.g. Coligan, J.E. etal. (2001) Current protocols in protein science, volume I. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York). For

flow cytometry analysis, phage antibodies are first blocked in an equal volume of 4% MPBS for 15 min at 4°C prior to the staining of the RVGP- and control transfected PER.C6™ cells. The blocked phages are added to a mixture of unlabelled

5   control transfected PER.C6™ cells and RGVP transfected PER.C6™ cells that have been labelled green using a lipophylic dye (PKH67, Sigma). The binding of the phage antibodies to the cells is visualized using a biotinylated anti-M13 antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) followed by

10   streptavidin-phycoerythrin (Caltag). Anti RVGP scFv selectively stains the PER.C6™ RVGP transfectant while they do not bind the control transfectant.

An alternative way of screening for phages carrying single chain Fv fragments specifically recognizing human

15   RVGP, is by use of RVGP-transfected PER.C6™ cells. PER.C6™ cells expressing membrane bound RVGP are produced as described supra. Phage selection experiments are performed as described supra, using these cells as target. A fraction of the phage library comprised of scFv-phage particles using

20   only one single scFv species (500 µl, approximately 10^{13} cfu) is blocked with 2 ml RPMI/10%FCS/1%NHS for 15' at RT. Untransfected PER.C6™ cells (~10*10^6 cells) are added to the PER.C6-RVGP cells (~1.0*10^6 cells). This mixture is added to the blocked light chain restricted phage-library and

25   incubated for 2,5 hr while slowly rotating at 4°C. Subsequently, the cells are washed twice and were resuspended in 500µl RPMI/10%FCS and incubated with a murine anti-RVGP antibody (Becton Dickinson) followed by a phycoerythrin (PE)-conjugated anti-mouse-IgG antibody (Calltag) for 15' on ice.

30   The cells are washed once and transferred to a 4 ml tube. Cell sorting is performed on a FACSvantage fluorescence-

activated cell sorter (Becton Dickinson) and RVGP (PE positive) cells are sorted. The sorted cells are spun down, the supernatant is saved and the bound phages are eluted from the cells by resuspending the cells in 500µl 50mM Glycin

5   pH2.2 followed by incubation for 5 min. at room temperature. The mixture is neutralized with 250µl 1M Tris-HCl pH 7.4 and added to the rescued supernatant. Collectively these phages are used to prepare an enriched phage library as described above. The selection/re-infection procedure is performed

10   twice. After the second round of selection, monoclonal phage antibodies are prepared and tested for binding to RVGP-PER.C6™ cells and untransfected PER.C6™ cells as described supra. Phages that are positive on RVGP-transfected cells are subsequently tested for binding to the RVGP-IgG fusion

15   protein in ELISA as described supra.

The selected scFv fragments are cloned in a human IgG1 format, according to methods known in the art (e.g. Boel et al, 2000). To this purpose, the VL fragment shared by the

20   selected scFv is PCR amplified using oligo's that add appropriate restriction sites. A similar procedure is used for the VH genes. Thus modified genes are cloned in expression vector pCRU-L01 or pCRU-K03, or derivatives thereof, which results in expression vectors encoding a

25   complete huIgG1 heavy chain and a complete human light chain gene having the same specificity as the original phage clone. By this method, three different heavy chains are cloned into separate expression vectors, while only one of the vectors needs to comprise the common light chain sequence. These

30   expression vectors are provisionally designated pCRU-RVGP-1, pCU-RVGP-2, and pCRU-RVGP-3. Alternatively, these three vectors may lack DNA encoding the V_L region, which can then

be encoded in a fourth, separate expression vector not encoding a heavy chain. It is also possible to have V_L sequences present in all three or two of the three vectors comprising the different V_H sequences.

5   Stable PER.C6™ derived cell lines are generated, according to methods known to the person skilled in the art (see e.g. WO 00/63403), the cell lines expressing antibodies encoded by genetic information on either pCRU-RVGP-1, pCRU-RVGP-2 or pCRU-RVGP-3 and a cell line expressing antibodies encoded by

10   all three plasmids. Therefore, PER.C6™ cells are seeded in DMEM plus 10% FBS in tissue culture dishes (10 cm diameter) or T80 flasks with approximately 2.5 x 10^6 cells per dish and kept overnight under their normal culture conditions (10% CO_2 concentration and 37°C). The next day, transfections are

15   performed in separate dishes at 37°C using Lipofectamine (Invitrogen Life Technologies) according to standard protocols provided by the manufacturer, with either 1-2 µg pCRU-RVGP-1, 1-2 µg pCRU-RVGP-2, 1-2 µg pCRU-RVGP-3 or 1 µg of a mixture of pCRU-RVGP-1, pCRU-RVGP-2 and pCRU-RVGP-3. As

20   a control for transfection efficiency, a few dishes are transfected with a LacZ control vector, while a few dishes will be not transfected and serve as negative controls. After 4 to 5 hours, cells are washed twice with DMEM and refed with fresh medium without selection. The next day,

25   medium are replaced with fresh medium containing 500 µg/ml G418. Cells are refreshed every 2 or 3 days with medium containing the same concentrations of G418. About 20-22 days after seeding, a large number of colonies are visible and from each transfection at least 300 are picked and grown via

30   96-well and/or 24-well via 6-well plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, cells are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-cultured colony) and production levels of recombinant

human IgG antibody are determined in the supernatant using an ELISA specific for human IgG_1 (described in WO 00/63403). Also, at this stage G418 is removed from the culture medium and never re-applied again. For a representative number of colonies larger volumes will be cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG_1 fraction from the conditioned supernatant using Protein A affinity chromatography according to standard procedures. Purified human IgG_1 from the various clones is analyzed on SDS-PAGE, Iso-electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the target RVGP using an RVGP PER.C6-transfectant described above.

Colonies obtained from the co-transfection with pCRU-RVGP-1, pCRU-RVGP-2 and pCRU-RVGP-3 are screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the presence or absence of each of the three constructs. The identity of the PCR products is further confirmed by DNA sequencing.

A limited number of colonies, which screened positive for the production of each of the three binding specificities (both by PCR at the DNA level as well as in the specified binding assays against RVGP), are subjected to single cell sorting using a fluorescence activated cell sorter (FACS) (Becton & Dickinson FACS VANTAGE SE). Alternatively, colonies are seeded at 0.3 cells/well to guarantee clonal outgrowth. Clonal cell populations, hereafter designated as sub-clones, are refreshed once a week with fresh medium. Sub-clones are grown and transferred from 96-wells via 24- and 6-wells plates to T25 flasks. At this stage, sub-clones are frozen (at least 1, but usually 4 vials per sub-clone) and production levels of recombinant human IgG_1 antibody are determined in the supernatant using a human IgG_1 specific ELISA. For a representative number of sub-clones, larger volumes are cultured to purify the recombinant human IgG_1

fraction from the conditioned supernatant using Protein A
affinity chromatography according to standard procedures.
Purified human IgG$_1$ from the various sub-clones is
subsequently analyzed as described above for human IgG$_1$

5   obtained from the parental clones, i.e. by SDS-PAGE, Iso-
electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the target RVGP. Sub-
clones are also screened by PCR on genomic DNA for the
presence or absence of each of the three constructs pCRU-
RVGP-1, pCRU-RVGP-2 and pCRU-RVGP-3. The identity of the PCR

10   products is further confirmed by DNA sequencing.
Other methods such as Southern blot and/or FISH can also be
used to determine whether each of the three constructs are
present in the clonal cell line.
Sub-clones that are proven to be transgenic for each of the

15   three constructs are brought into culture for an extensive
period to determine whether the presence of the transgenes is
stable and whether expression of the antibody mixture remains
the same, not only in terms of expression levels, but also
for the ratio between the various antibody isoforms that are

20   secreted from the cell. Therefore, the sub-clone culture is
maintained for at least 25 population doubling times either
as an adherent culture or as a suspension culture. At every
4-6 population doublings, a specific production test is
performed using the human IgG specific ELISA and larger

25   volumes are cultured to obtain the cell pellet and the
supernatant. The cell pellet is used to assess the presence
of the three constructs in the genomic DNA, either via PCR,
Southern blot and/or FISH. The supernatant is used to purify
the recombinant human IgG$_1$ fraction as described supra.

30   Purified human IgG$_1$ obtained at the various population
doublings is analyzed as described, i.e. by SDS-PAGE, Iso-
electric focusing (IEF) and binding to the target RVGP.

The efficacy of the antibody mixtures against rabies is tested in in vitro cell culture assays where the decrease in spread of rabies virus is measured, as well as in in vivo animal models infected by rabies. Such models are known to the person skilled in the art, and are e.g. described in Schumacher et al, 1989; WO 89/09789; EP0402029; EP0445625; US patent 5695757.

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Claims

1.   A method for production of a mixture of antibodies in a recombinant host, the method comprising the step of: expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding at least one
5   light chain and at least three different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with said at least one light chain.

2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein said recombinant host cell comprises a nucleic acid sequence
10   encoding a common light chain that is capable of pairing with said at least three different heavy chains, such that the produced antibodies comprise common light chains.

3.   A method according to claim 1 or 2, further
15   comprising the step of:
recovering the antibodies from the host cell or the host cell culture.

4.   A method according to any one of claims 1-3,
20   wherein at least two antibodies comprising a heavy-light chain dimer in said mixture of antibodies have different specificities and/or affinities.

5.   A method according to any one of claims 1-4,
25   wherein said recombinant host cell is capable of high-level expression of recombinant proteins without the necessity of amplification of the nucleic acid encoding said proteins in said cell.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein said cell is derived from a human embryonic retina cell that has been immortalized or transformed by adenoviral E1 sequences.

5

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said host cell is derived from a PER.C6 cell.

8. A mixture of antibodies that is obtainable by a

10 method according to any one of claims 1-7.

9. A mixture according to claim 8, wherein antibodies present in said mixture bind to different epitopes of the same antigen and/or to different antigens present in one

15 antigen comprising mixture.

10. A recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least three different heavy chains of an

20 antibody, wherein said light and heavy chains are capable of pairing.

11. A composition comprising a mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies, wherein at least three different

25 heavy chain sequences are represented in the mixture of recombinant antibodies.

12. A composition according to claim 11, wherein the light chains of said antibodies comprise a common

30 sequence.

13.   A composition according to claim 11 or 12, wherein said mixture comprises bispecific antibodies.

14.   A composition according to any one of claims 11-13, wherein said mixture of antibodies has been produced by recombinant host cells according to claim 10.

15.   A composition according to any one of claims 11-14, wherein at least two of said antibodies have different specificities.

16.   A composition according to claim 15, wherein said different specificities are directed to different epitopes on the same antigen.

17.   A composition according to claim 15, wherein said different specificities are directed to different antigens present in one antigen comprising mixture.

18.   A composition according to any one of claims 11-14, wherein at least two of said antibodies have different affinities for the same epitope.

19.   A composition according to any one of claims 11-18, wherein said composition has an effect that is greater than the effect of each individual antibody present in said composition, wherein said effect is measured in a functional assay.

20.   A method for identifying at least one host cell clone that produces a mixture of antibodies, wherein said mixture of antibodies has a desired effect according to a

functional assay, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a host cell with nucleic acid sequence encoding at least one light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains, wherein said heavy and light chains are capable of pairing with each other;

(ii) culturing at least one clone of said host cell under conditions conducive to expression of said nucleic acid sequences;

(iii) screening said at least one clone of the host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies having the desired effect by a functional assay; and

(iv) identifying at least one clone that produces a mixture of antibodies having the desired effect.

21.   A method according to claim 20, wherein said host cell comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a common light chain that is capable of pairing with said at least two different heavy chains, such that the produced antibodies comprise common light chains.

22.   A method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein said culturing in step ii) and said screening in step iii) is performed with at least two clones.

23.   A method according to any one of claims 20-22, wherein said culturing of step ii) and/or said screening of step iii) is performed using high-throughput procedures.

24.   A method according to any one of claims 20-23, wherein said host cell is capable of high-level expression

of proteins without the necessity of amplification of the
nucleic acid encoding said proteins in said cell.

25.   A method according to any one of claims 20-24,
wherein said cell is derived from a human embryonic
retinoblast that has been immortalized or transformed by
adenoviral E1 sequences.

26.   A method according to claim 25, wherein said host
cell is derived from PER.C6.

27.   A method according to any one of claims 20-26,
wherein said mixture of antibodies comprises at least two
antibodies having different specificities and/or
affinities.

28.   A method of producing a mixture of antibodies,
comprising the step of:
(i) culturing a host cell clone identified by a method
according to any one of claims 20-27 under conditions
conducive to expression of the nucleic acids encoding the
at least one light chain and the at least two different
heavy chains.

29.   A method according to claim 28, further comprising
the step of:
(ii) recovering the antibodies from the host cell or the
host cell culture.

30.   A mixture of antibodies that is obtainable by a
method according to claim 28 or 29.

31.   A method for making a recombinant host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies, the method comprising the steps of:

introducing into said host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least three different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with said light chain, wherein said nucleic acid sequences are introduced consecutively or concomitantly.

32.   A method for making a recombinant host cell for production of a mixture of antibodies, the method comprising the step of:

introducing nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains into a recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain capable of pairing with at least two of said heavy chains.

33.   A transgenic non-human animal or a transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and a nucleic acid sequence or sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains that are capable of pairing with said light chain, wherein said nucleic acid sequences encoding said light and heavy chains are under the control of a tissue-specific promoter.

34.   A mixture of antibodies obtainable from a transgenic animal or transgenic plant according to claim 33.

35.   A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies and a suitable carrier, wherein at least two different heavy chains are

represented in said mixture of recombinantly produced antibodies.

36.   A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 35, wherein said mixture comprises bispecific antibodies.

37.   A mixture of antibodies wherein at least two different heavy chains are represented, for use in the treatment or diagnosis of a human or animal subject.

38.   Use of a mixture of antibodies wherein at least two different heavy chains are represented, for the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment or diagnosis of a disease or disorder in a human or animal subject.

39.   A method for producing a mixture of antibodies comprising different isotypes from a host cell, the method comprising the step of:
expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain and nucleic acid sequences encoding at least two heavy chains of different isotype that are capable of pairing with said light chain.

40.   A method according to claim 39, wherein said isotypes comprise at least an IgG and an IgA.

41.   A method for indentifying a mixture of antibodies having a desired effect in a functional assay, comprising the steps of
i) adding a mixture of antibodies in a functional assay, and

ii) determining the effect of said mixture in said assay, wherein the antibodies in said mixture comprise a common light chain.

5   42.   A method according to claim 41, wherein said mixture is comprised in a composition according to any one of claims 11-19.

       43.   A method according to any one of claims 1-7, 20-29,
10   39 or 40, or a recombinant host cell according to claim 10, or a method of making a recombinant host cell according to claim 31 or 32, or a transgenic non-human animal or transgenic plant according to claim 33, wherein the nucleic acid sequence or sequences encoding at least
15   one of said light and/or heavy chains have been obtained by a method comprising at least one antibody display selection step.

       44.   A method for producing a mixture of antibodies that
20   are capable of binding to a target, the method comprising the steps of: i) bringing an antibody display library comprising antibodies into contact with material comprising a target, ii) at least one step of selecting antibodies binding to said target, iii) identifying at
25   least two antibodies binding to said target, wherein said at least two antibodies comprise a common light chain, iv) introducing a nucleic acid sequence encoding the light chain and a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid sequences encoding the heavy chains of said at least two
30   antibodies into a host cell, v) culturing a clone of said host cell under conditions conducive to expression of said

nucleic acid sequences.

45.   A method for producing a mixture of antibodies in a
recombinant host, the method including the step of:
5   expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid
sequence encoding a common light chain and nucleic acid
sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains
that differ in the variable region and that are capable of
pairing with said common light chain, and wherein said
10   heavy chains further differ in their constant regions
sufficiently to reduce or prevent pairing between the
different heavy chains.

46.   A method according to claim 45, wherein said heavy
15   chains are of different isotype.

47.   A method according to claim 46, wherein said
different isotypes include at least IgG1 and IgG3.

20   48.   A method according to claim 46, wherein said
different isotypes include at least an IgG and an IgA
isotype.

49.   A mixture of antibodies obtainable by a method
25   according to any one of claims 45-48.

50.   A method for producing a mixture of antibodies
comprising dimeric IgA isotype {$(IgA)_2$} antibodies in a
recombinant host, wherein at least part of said dimeric
30   IgA antibodies have different binding regions in each of
the two IgA subunits, the method comprising the step of:
expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid

sequence encoding a common light chain and nucleic acid
sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains of
IgA isotype capable of pairing to said common light chain.

5   51.   A method for producing a mixture of antibodies
comprising an IgM antibody having at least two different
specificities, the method comprising the step of
expressing in a recombinant host cell a nucleic acid
sequence encoding a common light chain and nucleic acid
10   sequences encoding at least two different heavy chains of
IgM isotype, wherein said heavy chains are capable of
pairing to said common light chain.

52.   An IgA dimer, an IgM pentamer or an IgM hexamer
15   having at least two different specificities.

Title: Recombinant production of mixtures of antibodies

Abstract

The invention provides methods for producing mixtures of
antibodies from a single host cell clone. Thereto a
nucleic acid sequence encoding a light chain, and nucleic
acid sequences encoding different heavy chains are
expressed in a recombinant host cell. The antibodies in
the mixtures according to the invention suitably comprise
identical light chains paired to different heavy chains
capable of pairing to the light chain, thereby forming
functional antigen binding domains. Mixtures of antibodies
are also provided by the invention. Such mixtures can be
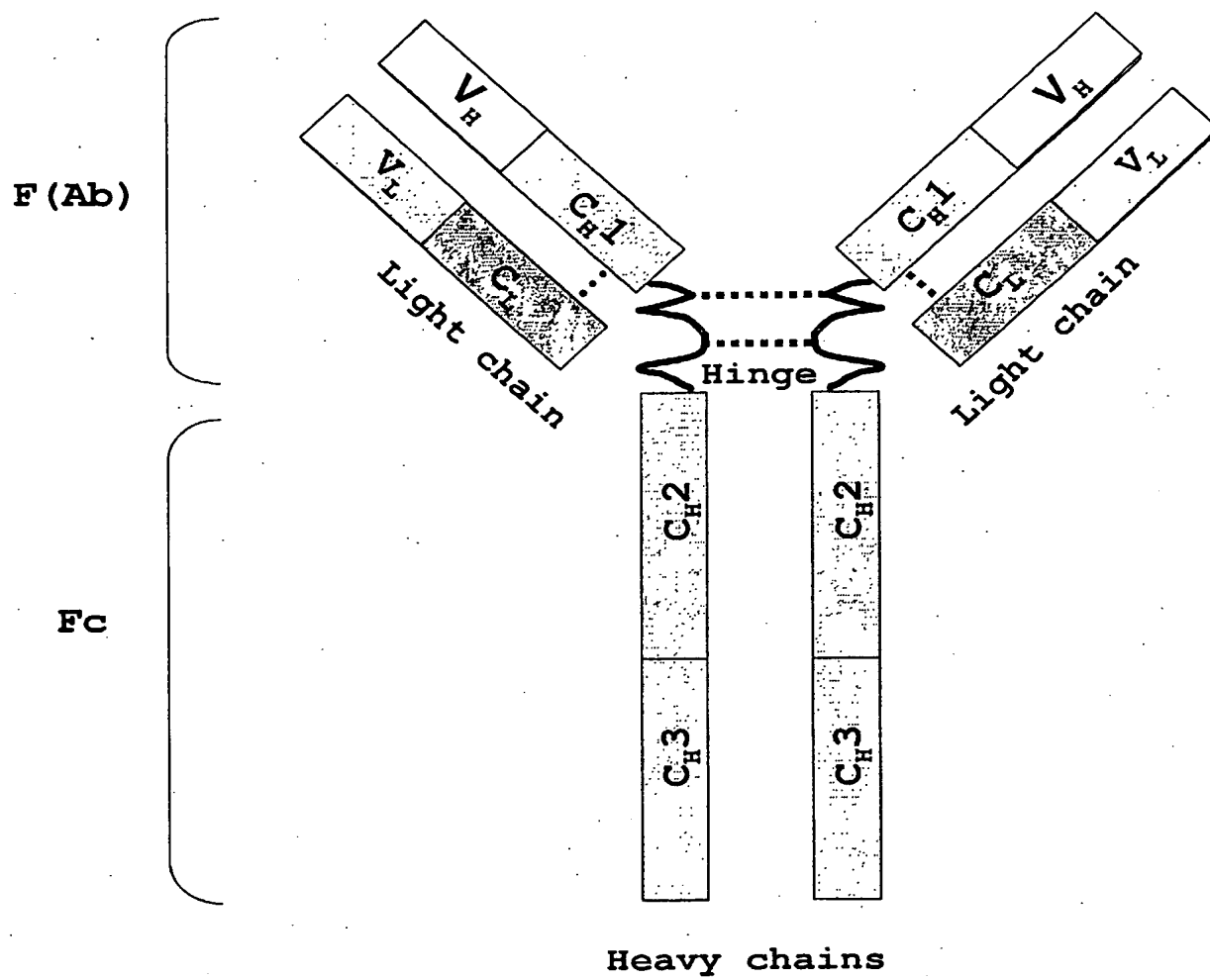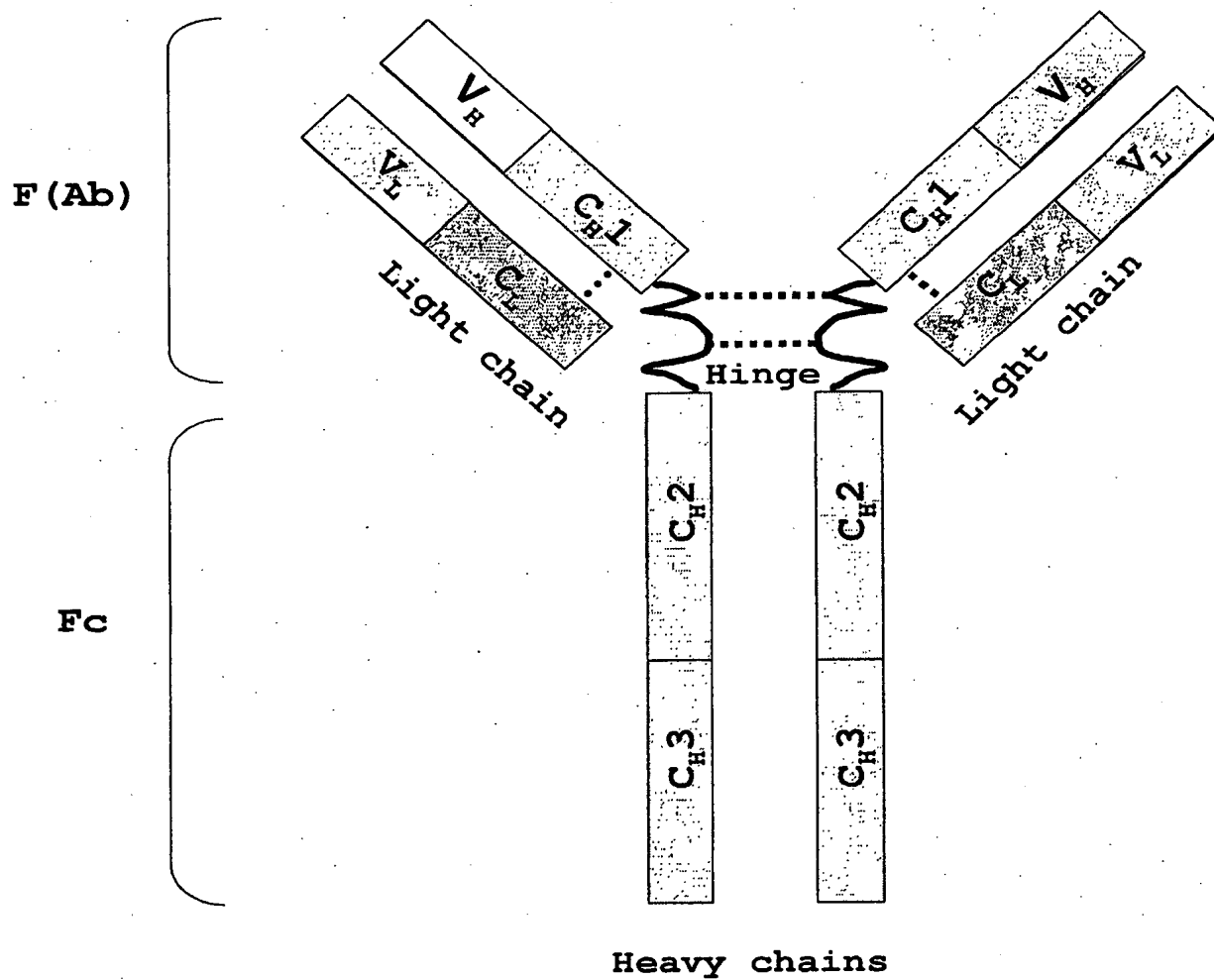used in a variety of fields.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

F(Ab)

Fc

V_H

V_L

C_H1

C_L

Light chain

Hinge

C_H2

C_H2

C_H3

C_H3

C_H1

V_H

V_L

Light chain

Heavy chains

Fig. 3

```
UBS54-VL    GAAATTGAGCTCACTCAGTCTCCACTCTCCCTGCCCGTCACCCCTGGAGAGCCGGCC
K53-VL      GAAATTGAGCTCACTCAGTCTCCACTCTCCCTGCCCGTCACCCCTGGAGAGCCGGCC
            ********************************************************

UBS54-VL    TCCATCTCCTGCAGGTCTAGTCAGAGCCTCCTGCATAGTAATGGATACAACTATTTGGAT
K53-VL      TCCATCTCCTGCAGGTCTAGTCAGAGCCTCCTGCATAGTAATGGATACAACTATTTGGAT
            ************************************************************

UBS54-VL    TGGTACCTGCAGAAGCCAGGGCAGTCTCCACAGCTCCTGATCTATTTGGGTTCTAATCGG
K53-VL      TGGTACCTGCAGAAGCCAGGGCAGTCTCCACAGCTCCTGATCTATTTGGGTTCTAATCGG
            ************************************************************

UBS54-VL    GCCTCCGGGGTCCCTGACAGGTTCAGTGGCAGTGGATCAGGCACAGATTTTACACTGAAA
K53-VL      GCCTCCGGGGTCCCTGACAGGTTCAGTGGCAGTGGATCAGGCACAGATTTTACACTGAAA
            ************************************************************

UBS54-VL    ATCAGCAGAGTGGAGGCTGAGGATGTTGGGGTTTATTACTGCATGCAAGCTCTACAAACT
K53-VL      ATCAGCAGAGTGGAGGCTGAGGATGTTGGGGTTTATTACTGCATGCAAGCTCTACAAACT
            ************************************************************

UBS54-VL    TTCACTTTCGGCCCTGGGACCAAGGTGGAGATCAAA
K53-VL      TTCACTTTCGGCCCTGGGACCAAGGTGGAGATCAAA
            ************************************

UBS54-VH    CAGGTGCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGGGCTGAGGTGAAGAAGCCTGGGTCCTCGGTGAGG
K53-VH      CAGGTGCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGGGCTGAGGTGAAGAAGCCTGGGGCCTCAGTGAAG
            *********************************************** **** **** *

UBS54-VH    GTCTCCTGCAAGGCTTCTGGAGGCACCTTCAGCAGCTATGCTATCAGCTGGGTGCGACAG
K53-VH      GTCTCCTGCAAGGCTTCTGGTTACACCTTTACCAGCTATGGTATCAGCTGGGTGCGACAG
            ********************    ****** * ******** ******************

UBS54-VH    GCCCCTGGACAAGGGCTTGAGTGGATGGGAGGGATCATCCCTATCTTTGGTACAGCAAAC
K53-VH      GCCCCTGGACAAGGGCTTGAGTGGATGGGATGGATCAGCGCTTACAATGGTAACACAAAC
            *****************************  ****** * **  *   *****   ****

UBS54-VH    TACGCACAGAAGTTCCAGGGCAGAGTCACGATTACCGCGGACGAATCCACGAGCACAGCC
K53-VH      TATGCACAGAAGCTCCAGGGCAGAGTCACCATGACCACAGACACATCCACGAGCACAGCC
            ** ******** *****************  *** * ***    ***************

UBS54-VH    TACATGGAGCTGAGCAGCCTGAGATCTGAGGACACGGCTGTGTATTACTGTGCAAGAGAC
K53-VH      TACATGGAGCTGAGGAGCCTGAGATCTGACGACACGGCCGTGTATTACTGTGCAAGGGGC
            *************  ************** ******* ***************** * *

UBS54-VH    CCGTTTC---------TTCACTATTGGGGCCAAGGTACCCTGGTCACCGTCTCGACA
K53-VH      ATGATGAGGGGTGTGTTTGACTACTGGGGCCAAGGTACCCTGGTCACCGTCTCGACA
             * *           ** **** ***********************************
```

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

A.

—— K53   homodimer
≡ UBS54/K53 heterodimer
—— UBS-54   homodimer

B.

K53   UBS-54

Expression of
construct encoding:

+

Production of:

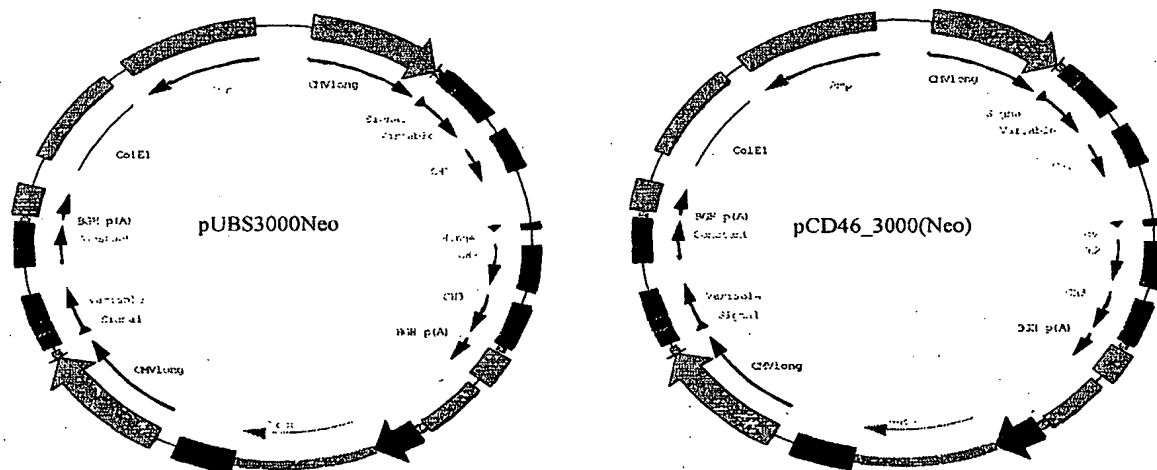1/4   1/2   1/4

Fig. 6
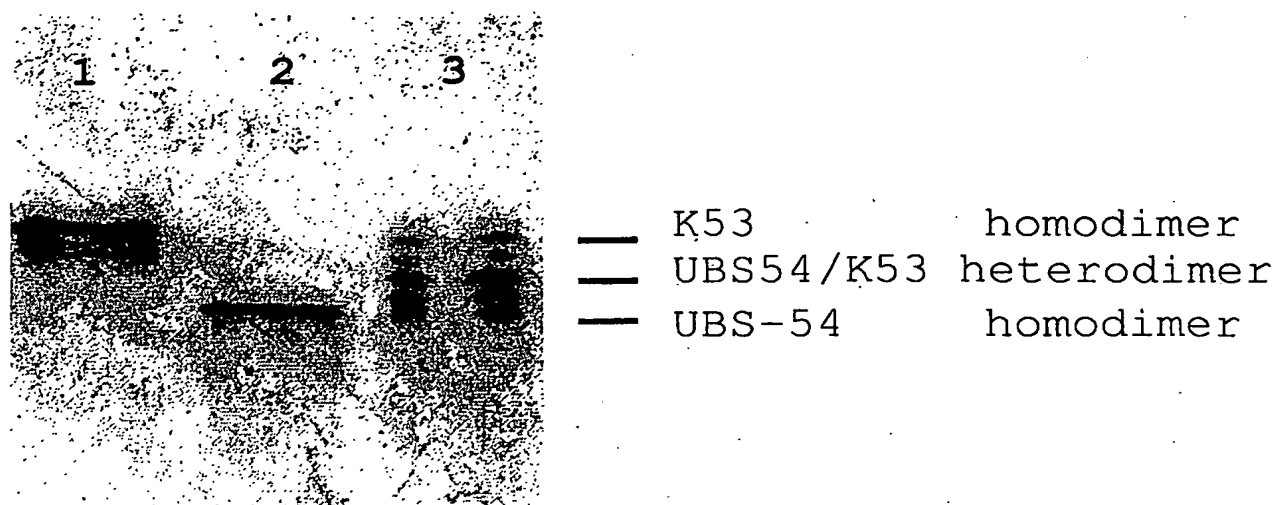
Fig. 7

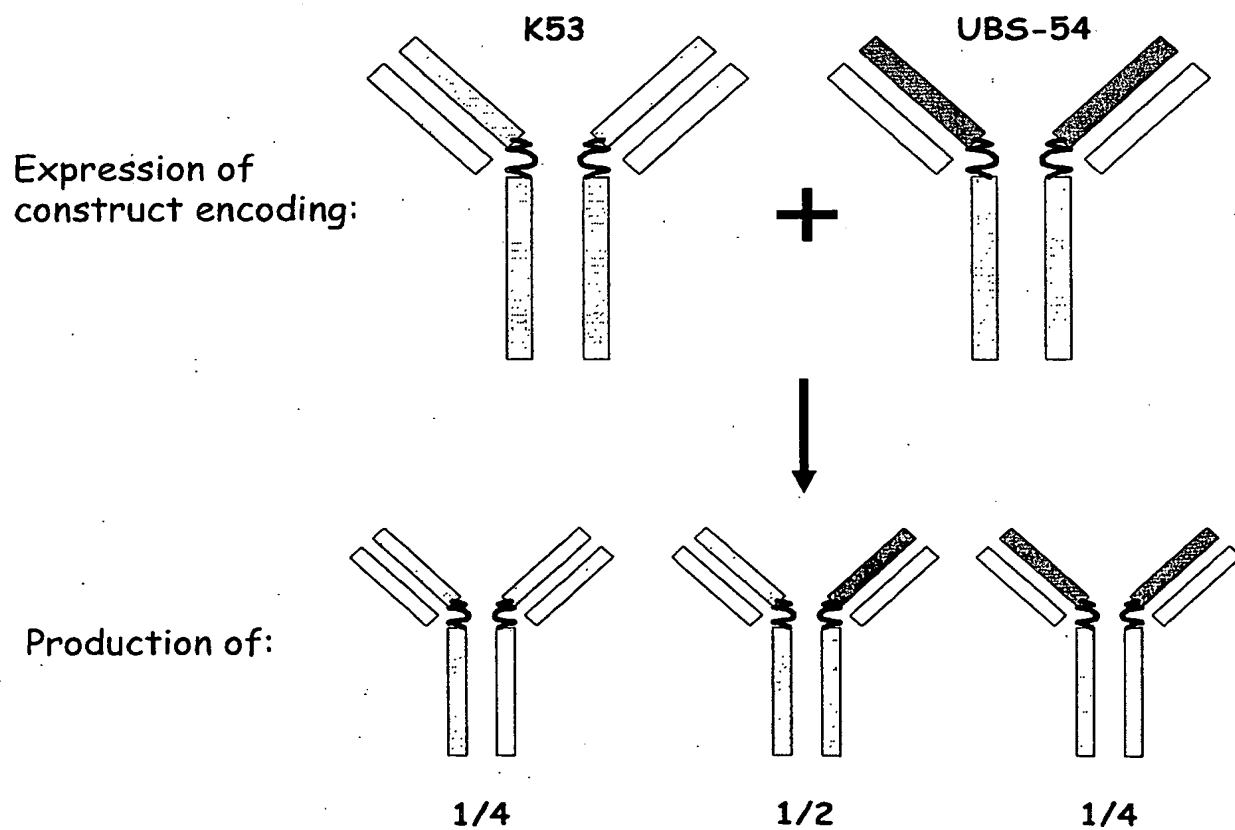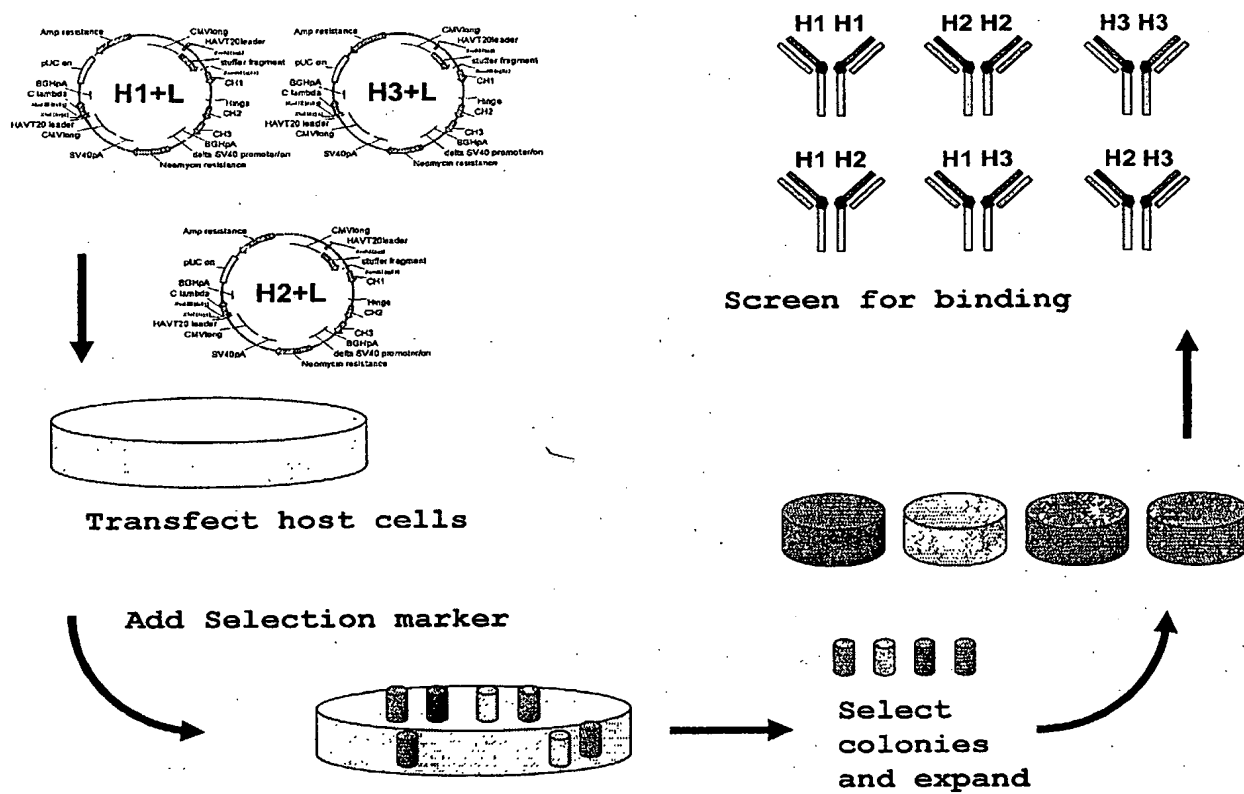Anti-CD22 V_H fragment (Phage B28)

```
          M   A   E   V   Q   L   V   E   S   G   G   G   V   V   R   P   G   G   S   L   R   L   S   C ·
    1   ATGGCCGAGGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGTCTGGGGGAGGTGTGGTACGGCCTGGAGGGTCCCTGAGACTCTCCTG
        · A   A   S   G   F   T   F   D   D   Y   G   M   S   W   V   R   Q   A   P   G   K   G   L   E ·
   72   TGCAGCCTCTGGATTCACCTTTGATGATTATGGCATGAGCTGGGTCCGCCAAGCTCCAGGGAAGGGGCTGG
        · W   V   S   G   I   N   W   N   G   G   S   T   G   Y   A   D   S   V   K   G   R   F   T
  143   AGTGGGTCTCTGGTATTAATTGGAATGGTGGTAGCACAGGTTATGCAGACTCTGTGAAGGGCCGATTCACC
         I   S   R   D   N   A   K   N   S   L   Y   L   Q   M   N   S   L   R   A   E   D   T   A   V ·
  214   ATCTCCAGAGACAACGCCAAGAACTCCCTGTATCTGCAAATGAACAGTCTGAGAGCCGAGGACACGGCCGT
        · Y   Y   C   A   R   G   F   L   R   F   A   S   S   W   F   D   Y   W   G   Q   G   T   L   V ·
  285   GTATTACTGTGCAAGAGGCTTTCTTCGTTTTGCTTCCTCCTGGTTTGACTATTGGGGCCAAGGTACCCTGG
        · T   V   S   R
  356   TCACCGTCTCGAGA
```

Anti-CD72 V_H fragment (Phage II-2)

```
          M   A   Q   V   Q   L   V   Q   S   G   A   E   V   K   K   P   G   A   S   V   K   V   S   C ··
    1   ATGGCCCAGGTGCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGGGCTGAGGTGAAGAAGCCTGGGGCCTCAGTGAAGGTTTCCTG
        · K   A   S   G   Y   T   F   T   S   Y   Y   M   H   W   V   R   Q   A   P   G   Q   G   L   E ·
   72   CAAGGCATCTGGATACACCTTCACCAGCTACTATATGCACTGGGTGCGACAGGCCCCTGGACAAGGGCTTG
        · W   M   G   I   I   N   P   S   G   G   G   T   S   Y   A   Q   K   F   Q   G   R   V   T
  143   AGTGGATGGGAATAATCAACCCTAGTGGTGGTGGCACAAGCTACGCACAGAAGTTCCAGGGCAGAGTCACC
          M   T   R   D   T   S   T   S   T   V   Y   M   E   L   S   S   L   R   S   E   D   T   A   V ·
  214   ATGACCAGGGACACGTCCACGAGCACAGTCTACATGGAGCTGAGCAGCCTGAGATCTGAGGACACGGCCGT
        · Y   Y   C   A   R   D   Y   Y   V   T   Y   D   S   W   F   D   S   W   G   Q   G   T   L   V ·
  285   GTATTACTGTGCAAGAGACTACTATGTTACGTATGATTCCTGGTTTGACTCCTGGGGGCCAAGGTACCCTGG
        · T   V   S   R
  356   TCACCGTCTCGAGA
```

Anti-HLA-DR V_H fragment (Phage I-2)

```
          M   A   E   V   Q   L   V   E   S   G   G   G   L   V   Q   P   G   R   S   L   R   L   S   C ·
    1   ATGGCCGAGGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGTCTGGGGGAGGCTTGGTACAGCCTGGCAGGTCCCTGAGACTCTCCTG
        · A   A   S   G   F   T   F   D   D   Y   A   M   H   W   V   R   Q   A   P   G   K   G   L   E ·
   72   TGCAGCCTCTGGATTCACCTTTGATGATTATGCCATGCACTGGGTCCGGCAAGCTCCAGGGAAGGGCCTGG
        · W   V   S   G   I   S   W   N   S   G   S   I   G   Y   A   D   S   V   K   G   R   F   T
  143   AGTGGGTCTCAGGTATTAGTTGGAATAGTGGTAGCATAGGCTATGCGGACTCTGTGAAGGGCCGATTCACC
          I   S   R   D   N   A   K   N   S   L   Y   L   Q   M   N   S   L   R   A   E   D   T   A   V ·
  214   ATCTCCAGAGACAACGCCAAGAACTCCCTGTATCTGCAAATGAACAGTCTGAGAGCTGAGGACACGGCCGT
        · Y   Y   C   A   R   D   L   Y   L   A   H   F   D   Y   W   G   Q   G   T   L   V   T   V   S ·
  285   GTATTACTGTGCAAGGGACCTTTATCTTGCGCATTTTGACTACTGGGGCCAAGGTACCCTGGTCACCGTCT
        · R
  356   CGAGA
```

Shared V_L sequence of Phages I-2, II-2 and B28

```
          S   S   E   L   T   Q   D   P   A   V   S   V   A   L   G   Q   T   V   R   I   T   C   Q   G ·
    1   TCGTCTGAGCTGACTCAGGACCCTGCTGTGTCTGTGGCCTTGGGACAGACAGTCAGGATCACATGCCAAGG
        · D   S   L   R   S   Y   Y   A   S   W   Y   Q   Q   K   P   G   Q   A   P   V   L   V   I   Y ·
   72   AGACAGCCTCAGAAGCTATTATGCAAGCTGGTACCAGCAGAAGCCAGGACAGGCCCCTGTACTTGTCATCT
        · G   K   N   N   R   P   S   G   I   P   D   R   F   S   G   S   S   S   G   N   T   A   S
  143   ATGGTAAAAACAACCGGCCCTCAGGGATCCCAGACCGATTCTCTGGCTCCAGCTCAGGAAACACAGCTTCC
          L   T   I   T   G   A   Q   A   E   D   E   A   D   Y   Y   C   N   S   R   D   S   S   G   N ·
  214   TTGACCATCACTGGGGCTCAGGCGGAAGATGAGGCTGACTATTACTGTAACTCCCGGGACAGCAGTGGTAA
        · H   V   V   F   G   G   G   T   K   L   T   V   L   G   A   A   A
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Fig. 8.
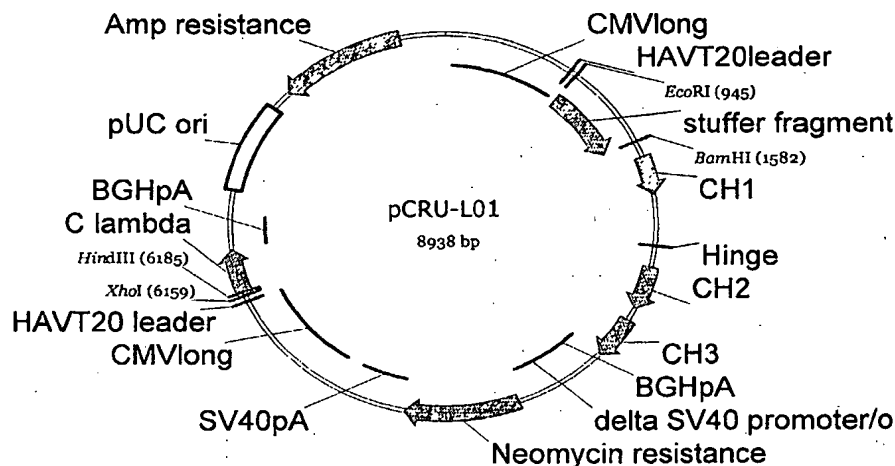
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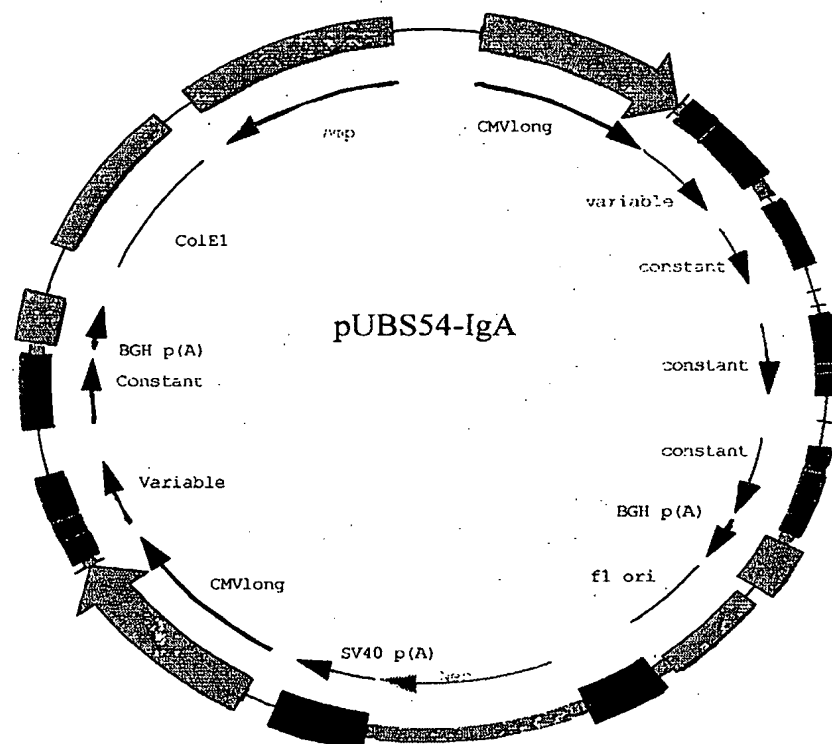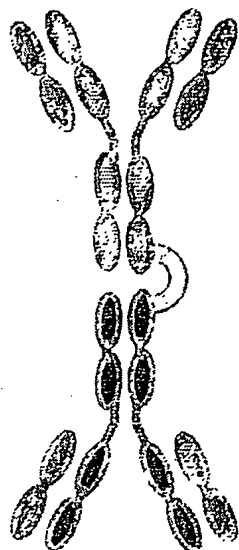
Fig. 9

pUBS54-IgA

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

Expression of
construct encoding:

IgG1   +   IgG3

Production of:

1/2   1/2

Fig. 13

Amp resistance (7950) CMVlong (56)
HAVT20leader (896)
EcoRI (945)
pUC ori (7135)
stuffer fragment (950)
BamHI (1582)
CH1 (1701)
pCRU-K03
9106 bp
Hinge (2386)
BGHpA (6709)
Ckappa (6364)
CH2 (2549)
NotI (6178)
XhoI (6159)
CH3 (2976)
HAVT20 leader (6113)
BGHpA (3316)
CMVlong (5272)
delta SV40 promoter/ori (355{
SV40pA (4763)
Neomycin resistance (3942)

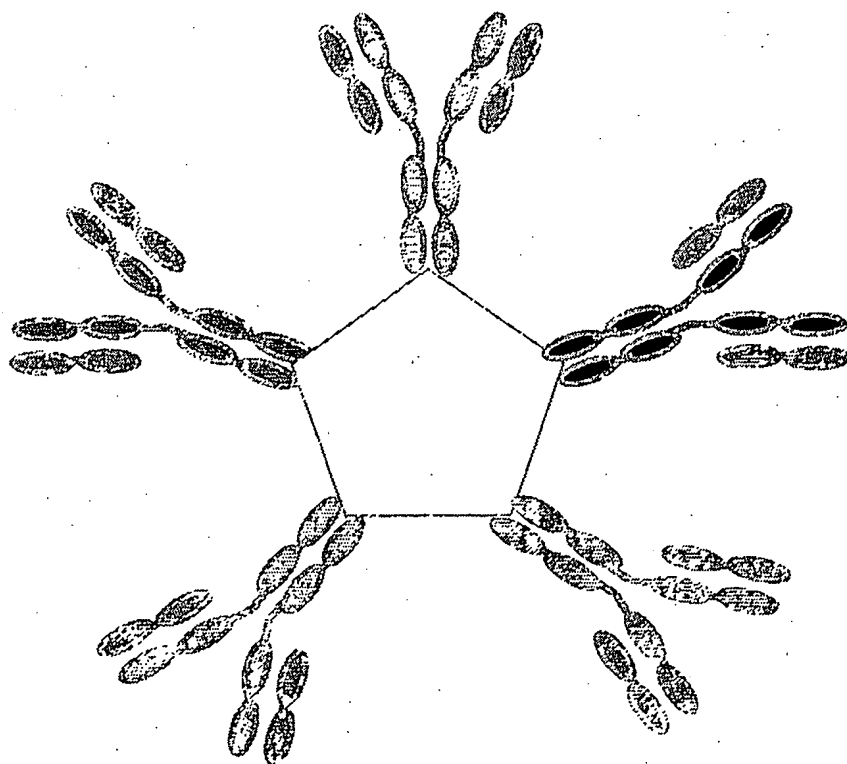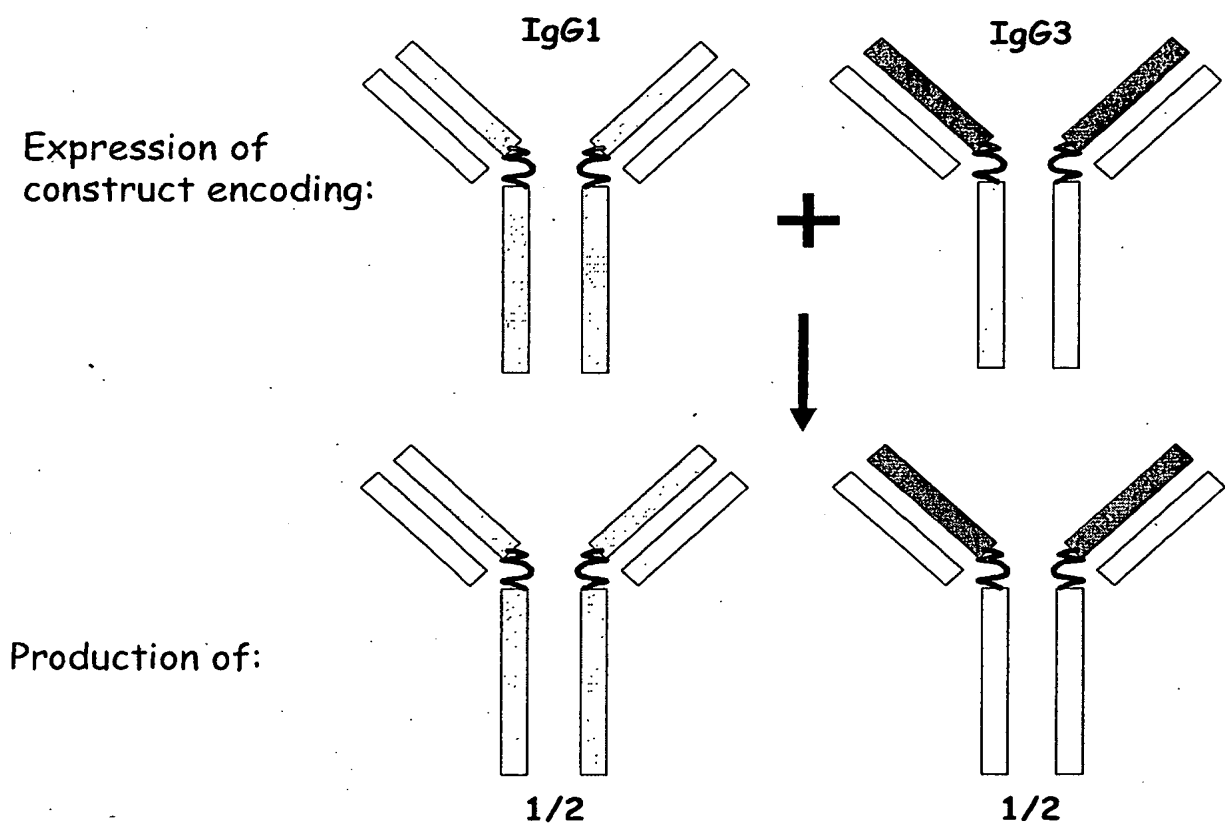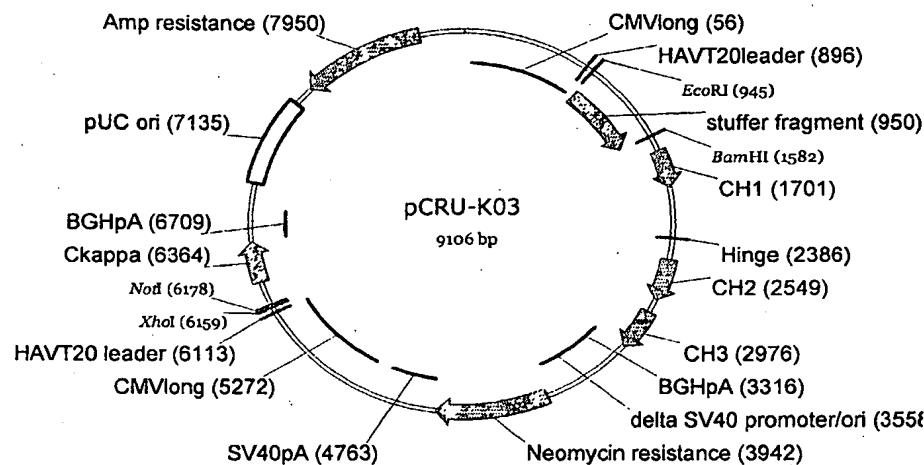**1   VECTOR PCRU-K03**

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4971    TGTGGTTTGTCCAAACTCATCAATGTATCTTATCATGTCTGTATACCGTCGACCTCTAGCTAGAGCTTGGC
5042    GTAATCATGGTCATAGCTGTTTCCTGTGTGAAATTGTTATCCGCTCACAATTCCACACAACATACGAGCCG
5113    GAAGCATAAAGTGTAAAGCCTGGGGTGCCTAATGAGTGAGCTAACTCACATTAATTGCGTTGCGCTCACTG
5184    CCCGCTTTCCAGTCGGGAAACCTGTCGTGCCAGAATTGCATGAAGAATCTGCTTAGGGTTAGGCGTTTTGC
5255    GCTGCTTCGCTAGGTGGTCAATATTGGCCATTAGCCATATTATTCATTGGTTATATAGCATAAATCAATAT
5326    TGGCTATTGGCCATTGCATACGTTGTATCCATATCATAATATGTACATTTATATTGGCTCATGTCCAACAT
5397    TACCGCCATGTTGACATTGATTATTGACTAGTTATTAATAGTAATCAATTACGGGGTCATTAGTTCATAGC
5468    CCATATATGGAGTTCCGCGTTACATAACTTACGGTAAATGGCCCGCCTGGCTGACCGCCCAACGACCCCCG
5539    CCCATTGACGTCAATAATGACGTATGTTCCCATAGTAACGCCAATAGGGACTTTCCATTGACGTCAATGGG
5610    TGGAGTATTTACGGTAAACTGCCCACTTGGCAGTACATCAAGTGTATCATATGCCAAGTACGCCCCCTATT
5681    GACGTCAATGACGGTAAATGGCCCGCCTGGCATTATGCCCAGTACATGACCTTATGGGACTTTCCTACTTG
5752    GCAGTACATCTACGTATTAGTCATCGCTATTACCATGGTGATGCGGTTTTGGCAGTACATCAATGGGCGTG
5823    GATAGCGGTTTGACTCACGGGGATTTCCAAGTCTCCACCCCATTGACGTCAATGGGAGTTTGTTTTGGCAC
5894    CAAAATCAACGGGACTTTCCAAAATGTCGTAACAACTCCGCCCCATTGACGCAAATGGGCGGTAGGCGTGT
5965    ACGGTGGGAGGTCTATATAAGCAGAGCTCGTTTAGTGAACCGTCAGATCGCCTGGAGACGCCATCCACGCT
6036    GTTTTGACCTCCATAGAAGACACCGGGACCGATCCAGCCTCCGCGGCCGGGAACGGTGCATTGGAATCGAT
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                                                                    XhoI   NotI
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6107    GCCACCATGGCATGCCCTGGCTTCCTGTGGGCACTTGTGATCTCCACCTGTCTCGAGTTTTCCGGATTTGC
        NotI
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6178    GGCCGCTAGGAAGAAACTCAAAACATCAAGATTTTAAATACGCTTCTTGGTCTCCTTGCTATAATTATCTG
6249    GGATAAGCATGCTGTTTTCTGTCTGTCCCTAACATGCCCTGTGATTATCCGCAAACAACACACCCAAGGGC
6320    AGAACTTTGTTACTTAAACACCATCCTGTTTGCTTCTTTCCTCAGGAACTGTGGCTGCACCATCTGTCTTC
6391    ATCTTCCCGCCATCTGATGAGCAGTTGAAATCTGGAACTGCCTCTGTTGTGTGCCTGCTGAATAACTTCTA
6462    TCCCAGAGAGGCCAAAGTACAGTGGAAGGTGGATAACGCCCTCCAATCGGGTAACTCCCAGGAGAGTGTCA
6533    CAGAGCAGGACAGCAAGGACAGCACCTACAGCCTCAGCAGCACCCTGACGGCTGAGCAAAGCAGACTACGAG
6604    AAACACAAAGTCTACGCCTGCGAAGTCACCCATCAGGGCCTGAGCTCGCCCGTCACAAAGAGCTTCAACAG
6675    GGGAGAGTGTTAGACTTAAGTCGAGTCAGCCTCGACTGTTCCTTCTAGTTGCCAGCCATCTGTTGTTTGCC
6746    CCTCCCCCGTGCCTTCCTTGACCCTGGAAGGTGCCACTCCCACTGTCCTTTCCTAATAAAATGAGGAAATT
6817    GCATCGCATTGTCTGAGTAGGTGTCATTCTATTCTGGGGGGTGGGGTGGGGCAGGACAGCAAGGGGGAGGA
6888    TTGGGAAGACAATAGCAGGCATGCTGGGGATGCGGTGGGCTCTATGGCTTCTGAGGCGGAAAGAACCAGCT
6959    GCATTAATGAATCGGCCAACGCGCGGGGAGAGGCGGTTTGCGTATTGGGCGCTCTTCCGCTTCCTCGCTCA
7030    CTGACTCGCTGCGCTCGGTCGTTCGGCTGCGGCGAGCGGTATCAGCTCACTCAAAGGCGGTAATACGGTTA
7101    TCCACAGAATCAGGGGATAACGCAGGAAAGAACATGTGAGCAAAAGGCCAGCAAAAGGCCAGGAACCGTAA
7172    AAAGGCCGCGTTGCTGGCGTTTTTCCATAGGCTCCGCCCCCCTGACGAGCATCACAAAAATCGACGCTCAA
7243    GTCAGAGGTGGCGAAACCCGACAGGACTATAAAGATACCAGGCGTTTCCCCCTGGAAGCTCCCTCGTGCGC
7314    TCTCCTGTTCCGACCCTGCCGCTTACCGGATACCTGTCCGCCTTTCTCCCTTCGGGAAGCGTGGCGCTTTC
7385    TCATAGCTCACGCTGTAGGTATCTCAGTTCGGTGTAGGTCGTTCGCTCCAAGCTGGGCTGTGTGCACGAAC
7456    CCCCCGTTCAGCCCGACCGCTGCGCCTTATCCGGTAACTATCGTCTTGAGTCCAACCCGGTAAGACACGAC
7527    TTATCGCCACTGGCAGCAGCCACTGGTAACAGGATTAGCAGAGCGAGGTATGTAGGCGGTGCTACAGAGTT
7598    CTTGAAGTGGTGGCCTAACTACGGCTACACTAGAAGAACAGTATTTGGTATCTGCGCTCTGCTGAAGCCAG
7669    TTACCTTCGGAAAAAGAGTTGGTAGCTCTTGATCCGGCAAACAAACCACCGCTGGTAGCGGTTTTTTTGTT
7740    TGCAAGCAGCAGATTACGCGCAGAAAAAAAGGATCTCAAGAAGATCCTTTGATCTTTTCTACGGGGTCTGA
7811    CGCTCAGTGGAACGAAAACTCACGTTAAGGGATTTTGGTCATGAGATTATCAAAAAGGATCTTCACCTAGA
7882    TCCTTTTAAATTAAAAATGAAGTTTTAAATCAATCTAAAGTATATATGAGTAAACTTGGTCTGACAGTTAC
7953    CAATGCTTAATCAGTGAGGCACCTATCTCAGCGATCTGTCTATTTCGTTCATCCATAGTTGCCTGACTCCC
8024    CGTCGTGTAGATAACTACGATACGGGAGGGCTTACCATCTGGCCCCAGTGCTGCAATGATACCGCGAGACC
8095    CACGCTCACCGGCTCCAGATTTATCAGCAATAAACCAGCCAGCCGGAAGGGCCGAGCGCAGAAGTGGTCCT
8166    GCAACTTTATCCGCCTCCATCCAGTCTATTAATTGTTGCCGGGAAGCTAGAGTAAGTAGTTCGCCAGTTAA
8237    TAGTTTGCGCAACGTTGTTGCCATTGCTACAGGCATCGTGGTGTCACGCTCGTCGTTTGGTATGGCTTCAT
8308    TCAGCTCCGGTTCCCAACGATCAAGGCGAGTTACATGATCCCCCATGTTGTGCAAAAAAGCGGTTAGCTCC
8379    TTCGGTCCTCCGATCGTTGTCAGAAGTAAGTTGGCCGCAGTGTTATCACTCATGGTTATGGCAGCACTGCA
8450    TAATTCTCTTACTGTCATGCCATCCGTAAGATGCTTTTCTGTGACTGGTGAGTACTCAACCAAGTCATTCT
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8521    GAGAATAGTGTATGCGGCGACCGAGTTGCTCTTGCCCGGCGTCAATACGGGATAATACCGCGCCACATAGC
8592    AGAACTTTAAAAGTGCTCATCATTGGAAAACGTTCTTCGGGGCGAAAACTCTCAAGGATCTTACCGCTGTT
8663    GAGATCCAGTTCGATGTAACCCACTCGTGCACCCAACTGATCTTCAGCATCTTTTACTTTCACCAGCGTTT
8734    CTGGGTGAGCAAAAACAGGAAGGCAAAATGCCGCAAAAAAGGGAATAAGGGCGACACGGAAATGTTGAATA
8805    CTCATACTCTTCCTTTTTCAATATTATTGAAGCATTTATCAGGGTTATTGTCTCATGAGCGGATACATATT
8876    TGAATGTATTTAGAAAAATAAACAAATAGGGGTTCCGCGCACATTTCCCCGAAAAGTGCCACCTGACGTCG
8947    ACGGATCGGGAGATCTCCCGATCCCCTATGGTGCACTCTCAGTACAATCTGCTCTGATGCCGCATAGTTAA
9018    GCCAGTATCTGCTCCCTGCTTGTGTGTTGGAGGTCGCTGAGTAGTGCGCGAGCAAAATTTAAGCTACAACA
9089    AGGCAAGGCTTGACCGAC
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